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Editorial.

HOUGHTON FARM.

In years gone by, it was the chief aim of many men of great wealth to build themselves palatial homes upon great landed estates, upon which they attempted to get all the good in life possible for their own personal pleasure and that of their families and friends. As old age came on, the attempt was often made to hold by law, control over the future ownership of such estates and the method of their management, and especially to keep the estate entire and forever in the family name. Such a condition of public sentiment, though perfectly natural to man, has an undoubted tendency to cultivate feelings of selfishness. It is perfectly right that parents should take care of their own children, whom they love because they are their own, but it is a broader love, that, after doing for one's own all that it is best to do, can reach out and take in, to some degree, the children of others, who have been born and reared under conditions less favorable.

Family pride and the desire to keep property forever in the family name, has no such hold upon the hearts of Americans as of Europeans, particularly of the wealthy landholders of England. Our American institutions and methods of thought operate against such a condition of things here. Our wealthy men, many of them, feel a real brotherly and fatherly sympathy with people and the children of people, with whom they are connected only by the ties of country, or of universal brotherhood. Our wealthy men are founding asylums for the unfortunate, homes for the aged, and schools for the youth. As any country becomes rich, it becomes a question how to invest the surplus not required for immediate use in obtaining the comforts and luxuries of life. Many of our people show a desire to see their surplus wealth doing a public service, doing something that will make their country worthy of a home for their own children, when they themselves shall have passed away.

A great many active men are bending their best energies to the development of the country, especially the new regions at the West. Others retain their affections for New England and the other older settled States. They have seen money lavishly expended in bridging rivers, building railroads, establishing telegraph lines, and for clearing forests in new countries, which, had it been retained at home would have made these older States even better States to live in than they are. There are men too, who with all their wealth, whether inherited or accumulated by trade or manufacturing, do not forget that all wealth originates from the earth, and that a knowledge of the earth's resources and how to use them must be one of the highest privileges within the reach of man. Mr. Lawson Valentine, the founder of Houghton Farm, belongs to this class. Mr. Valentine has for several years been looking about to learn how best he could promote the agricultural interests of these older settled States, where farmers have to do something more than merely sow the seed and harvest the crops.

He has been the author of many schemes in this direction, of which the public know little or nothing. Many sums of money have been placed in the hands of parties, who, it was hoped, would be able to use it for the promotion of eastern agriculture. But Mr. Valentine's greatest effort was the establishment of Houghton Farm as an agricultural experiment station, a school, and a model country home.

Early last month, it was our pleasure to spend a few hasty hours in looking about to learn what had been done there and what it is intended to do. Houghton Farm is a half hour's ride by rail, southwest from Newburg on the Hudson. It lies in a valley between two ranges of mountains, and Mountainville is the principal station, though there is a small depot at the farm where trains sometimes stop.

The farm contains 1,000 acres, 300 being fit to cultivate, the balance being woodland and rock upon the mountain sides. Fruits of all kinds do well in the vicinity, and in the season of small fruits many thousand bushels are shipped daily to market by rail.

The farm has been made up from several old estates, and is still somewhat irregular in shape, as there are one or two farms which it nearly surrounds, the owners not caring at present to dispose of them. One old homestead has been fitted up for the owner's residences and is neat, tasteful, and of ample dimensions for family and friends. Lawns, trailing vines and flowers help to make it a beautiful home. Another old farm house is occupied by a family that boards the help. This is well furnished and the boarders have a large and well selected library from which to obtain reading matter, when not otherwise engaged. Maj. Henry E. Alvord, farm manager, occupies a cottage near the main farm-barns, school, and experiment buildings, and a shepherd and poultry keeper also have homes of their own on the estate. The barn for the horses and cattle was built for one of the finest in the country, and its mows were well filled with the large crops of hay and grain which the well manured fields produce.

Outbuildings for pigs, farm carriages, tools, etc., are numerous and neatly kept. Three large rooms in a carriage house are devoted to experiment work, being provided with much costly apparatus, such as is required in practical chemistry, also a large agricultural and scientific library. In the chemical laboratory, young graduates from the agricultural colleges are employed in carrying on investigations of value and interest to intelligent farmers everywhere. Records of temperature, rainfall, cloudiness, etc., are kept, as at government signal stations, among which Houghton farm is reckoned as one, and an important one too. Studies of soil temperature and its relation to crops are being carried on in a most thorough manner, thermometers fixed at different depths in the earth, from an inch to several feet, being examined many times during the day and night.

In carrying on all scientific researches, the wants of the farmer are kept foremost in mind, however pleasant it might be to seek knowledge for its own sake. Still there is the usual amount of prejudice shown by resident farmers against everything that is believed to be akin to "book knowledge," some even refusing to accept the use of superior breeding stock upon their own herds, when the service is offered free. Nor is the conservatism confined to farmers in the immediate vicinity, as was shown when Mr. Valentine attempted to obtain the co-operation of farmers in the country, in the study of the disease known as peach yellows. Circulars were sent out through the State, asking farmers to accept packages of fertilizer containing potash and other elements, which experiments at the farm had indicated would help trees infected with the disease. Sixty farmers responded by accepting the fertilizer, agreeing to report results after trial. The cost of the experiment to Mr. Valentine was between three and four thousand dollars, and in return he had the satisfaction of receiving just *two* reports. Still he is not discouraged, for he believes that experiment work is needed, and that in time it will be appreciated.

Three objects are kept in view: a model farm, which shall, if possible, be self-supporting: an experiment station, and a school for young farmers. The station is expected to be a constant bill of expense to the founder, but the students are expected to pay in some way, in part, for what they receive. One young man has the care of the cows, another assists in the laboratory, another has charge of the botanical department, and so the students or employees are scattered about in the different departments, each reporting daily to Major Alvord, the director and manager. Many young men find a year spent here the best recommendation they can have for places of trust upon farms in all parts of the country, where a high degree of skill and intelligence is required, as in the starting of stock farms and creameries, or in the care of country estates owned by men of wealth.

At the present time a considerable income is received from the sale of Jersey cattle, the farm being stocked with the most popular strains in the world. Twenty-seven pure Jersey cows were being milked at the time of our visit. They are pastured both day and night in hot weather, and are yarded night and morning to be milked, the milk being strained into large tin cans, which are drawn from the milking yard to the dairy upon a convenient, low geared hand cart, the night pasture and milking yard for summer being quite a distance from the barn and dairy house. The bull Ramapo, 4669, now standing at the head of the herd, is the fourth son of the noted cow Eurotas, owned by Mr. A. B. Darling, and is of the same blood precisely as the great cow Bomba, which died recently of milk fever, after making one of the largest butter records of the age. A number of very handsome calves, sired by Ramapo, were in pens feeding upon dry hay and milk, and doing much better the first six months on such feed than if turned out to pasture.

Among the farm horses are several noble specimens of the Norman breed, which bring an annual income to the credit side of the books, in addition to the labor they perform. The poultry department is made a prominent feature, and is most admirably managed by Mr. Holmes, lately of Falmouth, Mass. In the botanical department we found, beside the plants in the greenhouse, large quantities of grasses and garden plants grown for observation and study.

But one of the most interesting plats was the "Small Farm Rotation Plat," where the crops usually grown upon New York State farms are made to follow each other in regular rotation, in order to show visiting farmers, and others, through the reports, what are the possibilities of plain farming in New York State. The present system is a six years' course as follows: First year, corn on sod ploughed in the fall and manured with stable manure: second year, roots (turnips or mangolds): third year, oats; fourth year, winter wheat, sown in the fall after removing the oats. Timothy is sown at the same time, and clover the following spring: fifth year, clover, two crops: sixth year, timothy hay cut in July and the ground then ploughed again for corn the following year. Six plats of a half acre each, more or less, give a continuous exhibit of the entire rotation, no manure being applied except to the corn crop. A record of all the work done through the year is faithfully kept, from which annual reports are made up for free distribution among the signal stations, agricultural colleges, newspapers and to others interested in gathering or exchanging similar work. Under Maj. Alvord's excellent management, the farm itself has already paid a handsome percentage upon the appraised value of the property. As Houghton farm is undoubtedly becoming a permanent institution, readers of the FARMER will be likely to hear from it from time to time.

WORKING BUTTER.

Butter should be "worked" just enough to evenly distribute the salt through it. If the churning is stopped while the butter is in the crummy or granular form, and it is then thoroughly washed in clean water or brine, there will be no necessity for working it to get out the buttermilk, as there will be none to remove. Butter that is spread out on a butter worker, or on any suitable platform, and pressed into thin sheets, and then folded upon itself three or four times as the salt is sprinkled on, will be very evenly salted.

Butter that is unevenly salted will be streaky and marbled, because salt butter has a deeper color than unsalted. If a mass of butter is worked in a bowl or worker so small that the butter cannot be spread out into thin sheets, it is possible to paddle it over a long while without getting the salt into every part. Butter that is gathered in the churn before the butter milk is drawn off, may be worked to advantage for the purpose of squeezing out the milk that should not have been allowed to be shut into it, but such a process requires hard work, while at the same time it injures the quality of the butter. It is the milk in butter that first causes it to change from good to bad.

Mr. L. B. Arnold, in a recent conversation, told us that he had fully solved the problem of how to keep butter sweet for an indefinite period, by taking it from the churn in the granular form, and after rinsing it sufficiently in water or brine, packing it in firkins of strong brine without any working whatever. We ate butter at his table, that was free from the first suspicion of rancidity, that had been made many months, and kept in brine in the granular form till a little while before being wanted for use. He related a remarkable instance of a lot of butter taking the first premium at a public exhibition two years in succession, which was certainly a very severe test when shown against new butter of high quality. We must learn to work our butter less, but have it more free from buttermilk.

CLUB FOOT IN CABBAGE.

The article under this heading in the NEW ENGLAND FARMER of Aug. 23, gives the statements of Mr. Henderson printed some twenty-five years ago; probably Mr. Henderson himself, if he had the opportunity of revising his statements for republication, would embody the results of more recent investigation into the nature of this troublesome disease. The leading facts in connection with it have not been observed to differ from his statements; thus it is almost sure, on ordinary soils, to be very troublesome the second year on land planted two years successively, either with turnips or cabbages, the exceptions being strong soils of limestone formation. Some of the gardeners in Revere raise cabbages successfully every year on the same land with stable manure, but they give the land, a strong clay loam, a good dressing of lime every second or third year, and carefully remove the cabbage stumps as soon as the cabbages, which are early ones, are marketed. This treatment might answer for any land, but it has not yet been proved by trial, so far as I know.

As for the "insect" to which Mr. Henderson attributes the disease, it is probably the result and not the cause of the disease; diseased vegetation often becomes the prey of insects, which will not attack a healthy plant, at any rate the best scientific observers of the day believe that club root is caused by a parasitic fungus and not by an insect; the reason why the disease does not become troublesome in limestone soil has never been satisfactorily explained, but it seems to be an established fact. Club root is quite troublesome this year on low lands where no cabbage has grown recently, caused by the excessive dampness of the season probably: at any rate club root is often more troublesome in such seasons, on such lands. It is important to raise cabbage plants on land not recently cabbaged; the plants grown on land recently cabbaged are almost sure to contract the disease, which will not always show itself at the time of transplanting, but will appear shortly afterwards. Being short of cabbage plants this year, I bought in the market a few thousand to finish a piece; almost every one of the purchased plants are clubrooted now and worthless, though they showed no signs of the disease when set out, and the rest of the piece set with good plants are doing well and are not affected. This disease needs more study by the managers of our experiment stations, few gardeners having the time and money to spend in such search. W. D. PHILBRICK.

PICKING AND KEEPING APPLES.

The profit to be derived from growing winter apples depends much upon how they are gathered, preserved and sold. For a greater part of the apple producing country it was expected that this would be a bearing year, and that the prices would be low, but the severe late frosts of May destroyed the bloom over so wide a territory that the prospect now is quite favorable to remunerative prices for all the fine winter fruit that will be carefully picked and properly put up for market. The cold snap was so extensive throughout the country, and yet the frost skipped so many orchards, that it looks as if the bearing year for apples would be so divided on the orchards as to give growers a more uniform market for some years to come. The trees in many localities are loaded with all they can bear, and the weather has been favorable to continuous growth, so that the fruit will be comparatively large and sound. Over other large sections where apples are usually abundant there will not be a bushel of good apples to the acre, the frost having killed the bloom almost entirely, and what was left by the frost has since been destroyed by insects. In some localities where the crop is abundant, the apple maggot has increased to such an extent as to render much of the early fruit worthless, and also the sweet or table varieties of the late sorts. Where one finds his apples are infected badly with the maggot, one may as well give up all hopes of a satisfactory sale, or indeed of making any money from the crop at all for some years to come, or until more is learned of the habits of the insect and of methods for destroying it.

The requisites for keeping apples sound through the winter are careful picking, careful handling and cool storage. A bruised apple will surely rot in a very short time when placed in a temperature favorable to the ripening process. A perfectly sound apple in a clean, damp room where it is almost cold enough to freeze, will keep sound till the next year's crop begins to grow. If one has a deep, cold cellar, where the temperature can be controlled, it will pay to store the crop for late market, but if no such convenience is within reach the crop had better be sold as picked from the trees. But however sold, they should be picked and handled with as much care as one would handle eggs. Our own method has been to take a long spring wagon to the orchard, and as many bushel baskets as it will carry when filled; then pick the apples from the trees into small hand baskets that will hold a peck and a half, or thereabouts, and fill the large baskets from these by careful pouring, for apples may be poured, as may eggs, without bruising, if held back so they cannot fall. When the baskets are all full the wagon is driven to the store room, where they are emptied into bins by careful pouring. If barrels can be procured, the apples may be placed in these direct from the small hand baskets, and carried to the cellar without transfer. The less the fruit is handled of course the better it will keep. Special pains must be taken, if anything but new barrels are used, that they are perfectly sweet and clean. Old flour barrels that have flour sticking to the sides of the staves will not keep fruit sound, but will give it a mouldy or musty taste as soon as placed in a damp cellar. Old barrels, if used at all, should be thoroughly washed and dried before using. Apples in store must not be exposed to currents of dry air, as this will wilt the fruit, especially the porous, rough skinned varieties, like the Roxbury russet. Perfectly sound apples may be headed up tight after they have remained in the barrels a few days.

Growers who sell their crop in city or village markets near home find square bushel boxes very convenient for storing and marketing the crop. If of the right size to hold a heaping bushel when level full, they may be filled and piled up in bins in the cellar as high as convenient. To give them a little air, thin strips of wood may be nailed upon two edges of the boxes to keep them slightly apart. Store the different varieties by themselves, and in such order that the earlier sorts may be reached when ready for market. Apples keep best in a deep cellar that is not easily affected by changes in outside temperature. Double doors and windows are useful in enabling one to more thoroughly control the temperature, particularly in spring when the weather begins to grow warm. In winter the windows should be open enough to bring the temperature down very near to the freezing point. After a room is thoroughly cooled down to the proper temperature, keep it so by shutting out the outside air. Double doors will allow one to do this. In the winter, open the cellar to air it, or to take out fruit only when the weather is as cold as it is desirable to keep the air of the cellar. By observing these rules some of our apple growers are successful in keeping winter apples about two months later in spring than their more careless neighbors, and they get a dollar or more per barrel for their extra pains above the price received by their neighbors. There is a prospect of a good shipping demand for apples this year, but unless one understands putting up fruit for an ocean voyage one may as well let those of more experience take the risks.

BEEF RAISING IN NEW ENGLAND.

The *Breeders' Journal* is a monthly periodical, published at Beecher, Ill., and specially devoted to the Hereford cattle interest. The editor, Mr. T. L. Miller, was formerly an Eastern man, but went West several years ago and has engaged extensively in the breeding of beef cattle. Unlike many who have left the East, Mr. Miller can see opportunities here, as well as there, for those who will avail themselves of them. In a recent number of his *Journal* he says: "If New England farmers will use their grass and hay and take their grain from the West, they will soon find a prosperity that New England has never yet known, not only from the receipts of bullock breeding, but in the improving condition of their farms. This will enable them in time to grow such crops as will find a ready market at all their manufacturing centres."

Mr. Miller came east a few months ago on his way to England, and we remember that he said in one of his letters home, that there was no good reason why eastern farms should be abandoned or neglected, for the land compares favorably with the land of the West, after the lands have been reduced by a few years of cropping, or words to that effect. There is no doubt whatever in our mind that New England should keep more stock, raise more beef and mutton, and make more butter and cheese. If we would double our stock and purchase food enough to keep it one year, or would buy fertilizer to raise that food, we should have enough extra manure, if properly saved and applied, to nearly raise all the food needed in after years. All that is wanted is faith in our own soil and the pluck to use it.

STOP THE WASTES.

At the present time there are thousands and thousands of barrels of apples of good quality for immediate use, lying rotting under the trees in many sections of the country, while in other sections there are miles of orchards that have scarcely an apple upon them. Now it is hardly less than a sin to allow such a waste of good, wholesome food, while there are so many people who will soon be in want of it at fair prices, and who will really suffer in health for the lack of it. Small establishments for evaporating fruits of all kinds, or for putting them up in cans, or for both, are among the greatest needs at the present time in thousands of country neighborhoods. It is folly to talk of introducing the silk industry into this country for giving genteel employment to women and youth, so long as we allow this wholesale waste to go on in our orchards and gardens. The Western writers used to urge farmers to feed their corn to hogs and cattle in order to concentrate their crops into small compass to save freight expenses in sending to market. Fresh apples make very bulky freight, and cannot be transported far without taking away much of the profit from their sale, but if they are concentrated by drying out the water, which may be replaced anywhere and at any time, they may be cheaply sent to all parts of the country. A little more enterprise is all that is required to add a large income from the apple crop upon a great many of our fruit farms.

HARVEST POTATOES EARLY.

The best time to harvest the potato crop is soon after the tubers are done growing. If left in the ground after the vines are dead, the potatoes are exposed to the attacks of grubs of various kinds, which may destroy a large part of the crop. Fall rains may wash away the soil from off the tubers to some extent, leaving them exposed to sunlight, which will turn them green and bitter. Dig in fair weather: pick up as soon as fairly dry; handle with reasonable care, and store in cold cellars in piles not too deep, and they will be far better off than if left in the ground.

Digging potatoes in cold weather is bad work for the hands. Besides, the ground ought to be used for starting a crop of wheat, rye or grass for next year. Large growers usually prefer to sell the crop direct from the field, and let others find storage and run the risks of lower prices and losses from freezing in winter. Each must judge for himself when will be his best time to sell. But do not leave the harvesting till the last moment, and perhaps have it frozen in for the winter.

PEAT MOSS FOR STABLE BEDDING.—English farmers are importing from North Germany large quantities of peat moss for bedding their animals when kept up in stables. It is valued highly for its ability to absorb moisture, taking up nine times its own weight when dry. It is also claimed to be a most excellent absorbent of ammonia, keeping a stable where it is used much sweeter than where the same weight of straw is used for bedding. It is not impossible that moss might be used in this country with profit, where it can be gathered, dried and delivered in stables in condition to be used as litter and at moderate cost. Our wheat growing farmers, however, who let tons of straw rot in stacks every year will not be likely to take much stock in moss bedding just at present. We are far too wasteful of our straw in this country. It should be used much more than it is for making beef, for this can be done with profit when mixed with a proper proportion of grain.

Correspondence.

For the New England Farmer.

LETTER FROM WASHINGTON.

Division of Entomology—Aim and Work—Science and Knowledge—Noxious Insects—Injury they do—Value of the Birds—Service of Entomologists—The Farmer and His Vacation.

A visit to the spacious rooms occupied by the Division of Entomology, as it is called, in the Department, can not fail to afford pleasure as well as profit. This Division, under the supervision of Prof. C. V. Riley, a gentleman whose opinions in the special sphere of his investigations are deemed of the highest authority, both in our own land and in Europe, is doing a work which has an important bearing upon American agriculture. The service which it is rendering to the country can not perhaps be fully appreciated, except by those who understand the value of scientific investigations to our agricultural interests. There in the Entomological Division are to be seen men of fine scholarship and ripe practical wisdom, busily engaged in scientific researches and in embodying the results of their investigation in the reports and bulletins which are, from time to time, issued by the Department. They seek to combine science with practical knowledge, believing that their union is essential to all true progress in the domain of agriculture. But while they strive to make new discoveries in entomology, and to enrich the science with original contributions, they aim especially to render their investigations of practical benefit to our American farmers. It is thus, by means of the practical results at which science arrives and the practical knowledge which it imparts, that it is so effectively serving the cultivation of the soil. Nor can one think of the influence which science in its various departments is exerting at the present time on the community, and not be filled with grateful feelings.

Our entomologists in the Department give special attention, as might be supposed, to those insects which commit their depredations on the trees, the vines, the vegetables, the cotton and the fields of grain. Nor can one be familiar with the work of these men in the study of the characteristics of this and that noxious insect and of the best means of destroying the pest, and not be impressed with a sense of the indebtedness of our farmers to their patient and enthusiastic labor.

When we think of the thousands of insects of various kinds, which prey upon the husbandman and rob him of hard earned gain, the question of the existence of these foes seems not a little perplexing. Why have they been brought into existence? Why are they suffered to commit such ravages? They have doubtless an important part to fulfil in the economy of Providence, but their precise mission in the world is certainly a little difficult of explanation. But they are here; here to stay; here to cause vexation and desolation, and even the loss annually in our own country of hundreds of millions of dollars. Many of these various insects are indigenous to New England; some come to us from foreign shores, as if eager for a broader sphere in which to carry on their destructive operations; while others leaving their homes in the West, press their way to the East, in order to win conquests on new fields.

The great problem, however, is how to get rid of these foes which inflict so much injury. It is apparent that not only vigilance, but knowledge, both scientific and practical, is the price of freedom from the depredations of the Colorado beetle, the tomato worm, the curculio, the canker worm, the caterpillar, and the many other *rarenous* enemies of agricultural interests. The farmer has need to recognize his friends, and in all suitable ways to encourage their kindly offices. He cannot afford to dispense with even the services of the birds. He owes it rather to himself as a "wise husbandman" that instead of repelling them with the shot gun, as he too often does, he endeavor to enlist their efforts in his behalf. Should he not value their presence in his garden, his orchard, and his fields? While generous of their merry songs, their beautiful plumage, and their cheerful companionship, they afford him pleasure, and add a charm to his life; they also render him untold service by destroying legions of those pests which prove so injurious to his crops. An insect-eating bird like the woodcock, which it is said will eat its own weight of insects in a single night, or the sparrow, which attacks with such vigor the caterpillars, or the woodpecker, or the thrush, or the bluebird, performs a work whose value to our farmers no figures can compete.

But agriculture further needs the direct interposition of entomological science in order to check, if not utterly to stop these pests in their fierce warfare on our trees, our fruits, our vegetables, our vines, our grasses, and our fields of grain. And our entomologists, in studying the habits of the noxious insects, and especially in seeking by patient thought and experiment to devise "ways and means" for putting an end to their depredations, are certainly conferring great benefits upon the agricultural interests of their country. They deserve, indeed, grateful recognition for the devices which they have suggested for the extermination of certain foes of the farmer, and if, in the course of their researches, they succeed in discovering effective remedies against the ravages of the thousands and tens of thousands of these enemies which still continue to pursue their destructive work undisturbed, they will merit the cordial thanks of the coming generation.

But our farmers, while they should welcome the service of the birds and the entomologist, have need to throw themselves with resolute purpose and determined energy into the contest with the insects which inflict upon them so much injury. If they would honor their calling, and obtain the best results of their toils, they must arm themselves by all means in their power for the fight. Nor can a farmer in these days be regarded as either alive to his own pecuniary interest, or truly equipped for his high vocation, unless he has a general acquaintance at least with the science of entomology, with its bearing upon his labors in the garden, the orchard, and the field. DAVID BREMNER.

Washington, D. C., Sept 11th, 1884.

For the New England Farmer.

AGRICULTURAL CHIPS AND SHAVINGS.

Wild Carrot.

Among the many vegetable pests with which the farmer has to contend, there is none that is striving for a foothold more persistently than the wild carrot. This struggle would soon end if every farmer would enlist in the strife; but the trouble is that there are so many who allow the enemy to intrench upon their premises, from which scouting parties are continually sent out.

Only a few days since we noticed several scattering stalks in a common pasture; we had supposed, and believe it to be so generally, that where cattle feed regularly they will effect its destruction. In Connecticut there is law enough upon the statute books, but there is a failure in the execution. Farmers who will go over their pastures and cut the weeds and briars that spring up, will leave wild carrot to grow thickly upon their mowing lands—a very marked inconsistency. The plant comes from the seed, and survives only about two years, and if the seeding and scattering of the seed was prevented in every direction, it would require but a little time to effect its total extermination. We have seen upon Block Island fields so thickly covered with wild carrot as to present, when in full bloom, the appearance of a field of buckwheat when in blossom. When wild carrot gets such a hold upon the land as that, it must reduce its fertility, and tend to rapidly run out all the grasses, and should be a sufficient reason why the effort to prevent its spread should be persisted in.

Potato Blight.

The promise of a large crop of potatoes is likely to prove fallacious in some sections. The late frosts did much damage to the crop, but with favorable conditions the crop was re-planted and grew with astonishing rapidity and luxuriance of vines; but of a sudden a blight came upon the leaves whereby they turned black, and the stalks became weak and fell down. In cases where the early planted escaped the effect of the frost, they also escaped the effect of the blight, but in case the crop was planted the last of June or the first of July, the blight came on before the potatoes were half developed, and so further growth was arrested.

There is also a strong tendency to decay, and many are digging and pushing the crop upon the market, even at moderate prices, preferring to take that course than to assume the risk of a total loss of the same by decay. The great excess of rain that some sections of country have experienced, has been peculiarly favorable to the decay of the potato, and yet this has to a certain extent been counteracted by the low degree of temperature. With an excess of moisture in the ground, and excessively hot weather, there is a combination of conditions which will be very likely to induce extensive and rapid decay. It is very probable that two or three extremely hot days which were experienced were the chief cause of the decay of potatoes.

Shelter to Fruit Trees an Advantage.

Some years ago we took occasion to make mention of what appeared to be the advantages derived from a shelter to fruit trees by some species of evergreens. Pear trees thus protected upon the premises of Ex-Lieut. Gov. Hyde were referred to. These trees were planted among arbor vitæ and where thus sheltered, produced double the quantity of fruit, and of much superior quality. Our attention has recently been called to a similar condition of things in the case of apples. In consequence of the frosts of May 30th and June 15th, the prospects for a crop of apples, except in sheltered localities, was very poor, and time has shown that in large sections scarcely an apple is to be found. But in a locality where the crop was generally destroyed stands a tree that was wholly sheltered upon its north and west sides by hemlocks and arbor vitæ, and, singularly enough, that tree is well supplied with fruit of excellent quality. It must be left to purely scientific men to explain, but no person who has ever passed through a forest of evergreen trees in winter can have failed to notice the apparent ameliorated condition of temperature. We are not aware that any accurate tests have been made by the measurement of the mercury, but the change to the senses is very noticeable, and, if it is real, we can easily imagine that for an orchard to be protected by shelter belts of rapidly growing evergreen trees the benefit would be very great.

Manure Does the Work.

Said a farmer, referring to a field of corn that had been largely noticed because of its great promise, "I don't see what makes that field of corn grow so much larger than mine, as the same kind of corn was planted." If he had stopped to consider, he probably would have discovered a satisfactory cause. In one case, before ploughing, a light dressing of manure was employed, and superphosphate used in the hill; but not enough of either to stimulate more than an ordinary growth. In the other case a dressing of manure was employed that was so thick as to render its being turned under extremely difficult. Before planting, the ground was thoroughly harrowed twice, and when planted a liberal supply of phosphate used in the hill, and then too the attention given in hoeing was such as to insure perfect cleanliness. The result was that while one piece grew only to a moderate size, the other grew as large as it was possible for corn to grow. It is a mistake if farmers suppose they can grow corn successfully without manure. Phosphate may do well enough in its place, and as a supplemental manure, but when it comes to placing dependence entirely upon that kind of fertilizer, and in limited quantities, our own faith wavers.

Cutting Bushes.

There is no doubt but that the rougher portions of New England farms are growing up to bushes. This condition has been gradually coming on for years. It is not probable that one-half as many acres are now brought under cultivation as was the case one hundred years ago, and yet, with the gradual decrease in acres cultivated, there is an increase in the yield per acre. There is nothing gained in attempting the cultivation of more than can be thoroughly manured and well attended to. We have no sympathy with the style of farming that leaves a crop of corn with a single hoeing, or half manured. Where the surface is very rough, it is as well to encourage forest growth as to be cutting bushes year after year, because the demand for crops does not call for it. When it becomes necessary for an extension of the area of cultivation, it can be effected by proper preparation, such as the removal of stones, and the use of the plough, but simply cutting bushes will never do it.

WILLIAM H. YEOMANS.

Columbia, Conn.

For the New England Farmer.

JUDGING FROM THE OUTSIDE.

However unwise it may be to judge fruits from the outside, much of the disposition and bodily quality of an animal can be determined from its hair and skin. I know of no tests that will determine the practical value of a farm animal with greater precision and certainty than its "handling." A person who knows how much valuable information can be gained by consulting the hair and skin, is often led to wonder at the indifference with which these points are treated by farmers. When it is the consideration of breed instead of excellence, the hair receives its full share of attention. The Durham must not be black, the Polled Angus must not be any other color; the Jersey must be mouse colored, the Galloway black or brown, the Suffolk red. Among swine we find equal deference paid to the color of the hair. The Poland China must not be white, but the Chester White can not be anything else; the Jersey Red must be red and the Essex black; while the Berkshire must wear a white hood and white hose.

Although we pay so much attention to the color of the hair, this is of no practical value; but the quality of the hair is of great practical value as a test. In a general way it may be said that the finer the hair, the better the animal for flesh and milk in both quantity and quality. The Texan and scrub steer or cow have long, coarse hair; and as it is an established fact that in the animal kingdom nature produces a correspondence between the internal and external organs, we would suppose the flesh of the Texan and scrub to be coarse and of poor quality, which it is. On the other hand, the hair of the Jersey is fine and soft, betokening a dainty little animal producing milk, that being her leading production, of superior quality. The hair of the Shorthorn and polled cattle is somewhat coarser, as it should be on a larger animal; yet it is softer and finer than the hair of the Texan, denoting that the flesh is of better quality. The scrub hog, the rail-splitter, had very coarse hair, well termed bristles, along the spine, so coarse was it; the hair of the improved breeds is finer and softer. The quality of the flesh corresponds with the hair. The sheep illustrates this point better than any other animal, because the object of domestication and improvement was to demonstrate it. As a matter of fact, we unconsciously recognize it as a fact that the improvement in our farm animals is accompanied with a fining and softening of the hair. We would be surprised to find the Berkshire growing such bristles as the wood-hog sports. And we also unconsciously recognize it as a fact that quality of hair is a criterion of the quality of the flesh and milk, though we fail to avail ourselves of the practical advantages of that fact; we would count it odd if a Jersey had hair as coarse as that of a buffalo, or if under the bison's shaggy coat we should find fine, not coarse, but juicy, delicately flavored flesh.

We can turn this to practical account in the selection of individual animals. Always bearing in mind that animals of some breed have slightly coarser hair than of others, we will get the best flesh or the best milk by selecting the animal with fine, silky hair. I consider this of the most importance among cattle; and in the selection of cows I would pay more attention to the quality of the hair, than to the way it happened to grow upon the escutcheon.

It will be found that there is a wide difference in the hair of different animals. The coarse haired animal will be found to fatten slowly, to yield flesh and milk of poor quality, though of an improved breed; on the contrary, some scrubs have fine hair and these fatten easily. A disposition of the hair to curl (which must not be confounded with kinki ness), is a good sign. A pig with such hair is a fat pig, a steer with such hair matures early and fattens easily, and a cow with such hair yields rich milk. Straight, stiff hair, which is thinly and lankly distributed over the surface, indicates a hard skin, which is a bad sign.

The skin forms a yet better test than the hair. The two are intimately connected and the quality of the hair can be determined from that of the skin, and *vice versa*. Fine, soft hair grows upon a fine soft skin, which covers fine flesh; coarse, straight hair grows upon a coarse, hard skin, which covers coarse, hard flesh.

The "touch," or "handling" of an animal has always been considered a most important test by breeders. It was the greatest test of the Collingbrothers. An animal that handled well they prized, one that did not handle well they rejected. Thus it is said that while the one brother was the more enterprising, the other excelled him because he could more accurately discriminate among and judge of the handling of animals. In fact, we find that the early breeders and improvers of stock paid much attention to handling; it was their first test and their last test. They were wise men. They founded their efforts at improvement upon a knowledge of animal physiology; they knew how intimately the organs were related, and how well those not seen could be judged by those visible. They were wiser than we who pay more attention to color of hair, shape of horn, and perfectness of pedigree.

The butcher tells the quality of the flesh, and the stockgrower the aptitude of the animal to fatten, by the "touch." They can do this because practice has educated their fingers. Any intelligent, sensible person can learn; but he can learn only by practice. It is hard to give the first lesson, the A-B-C, in words, and yet this must be given in words. It is difficult for me to describe the peculiar sensations of varying degrees of softness and elasticity that are produced by the pressure of the hand upon the bodies of different animals, though mentally I can distinguish these well enough. It may be said that if the touch reveal a thick, hard skin, adhering firmly to the muscles, the animal is a hard grazer, a difficult and obstinate feeder, slow to put on fat, and of coarse, juiceless flesh. The other extreme is to be avoided. If the skin is papery, flaccid, flabby, or loose in the hand, the flesh of the animal will be flabby, the animal itself will be delicate and likely unable to retain fat. But if the skin is elastic, velvety, soft, pliable, presenting to the touch a gentle resistance, but so delicate as to give pleasure to a sensitive hand, giving an indentation from the pressure of the fingers, but rising to its place by a gentle elasticity, you may be sure the animal is a good feeder and will yield flesh or milk of good quality. Observe that the skin may be mellow from disease; but if so the skin will rise slowly in the indentations, not exhibiting the elastic spring of a healthy skin.

I am sure that my readers have noticed that a cow with a rich golden and mellow skin is a good milker, giving milk of rich quality. Touch as an indication of fattening qualities is not confined to cattle. Hogs that fatten readily, display the soft and mellow touch. This distinguishes some entire breeds, as the Chinese and Siamese, which fatten with unusual readiness. And among wild animals we will find this touch indicating a disposition to lay on fat, as in the case of the bear and opossum. JOHN M. STAHL.

Selections.

DRAINAGE AND IRRIGATION.

Drainage has been done to excess, no doubt, by tile-makers and others interested in selling the materials, who have spent considerable money in efforts to influence public opinion in this direction. By excessive drainage the water of the soil is run off into the streams within a few hours after a rain. This water carries off a vast quantity of soluble fertilizing matter and chiefly the nitrates and potash which are so exceedingly valuable. Then, when a dry season sets in, there is no moisture in the soil and the ground dries out and ruins the crop. This is the result of following English examples without considering how very much our climate differs from that of England. Here we need to husband the water in the soil. The Coles plan for making trenches along slopes and filling them with stone, serves to arrest the flow of surface water and retain it until it gradually percolates from one to the other to the foot of the slope. It is obviously applicable only in suitable places.

The drainage of swamps, sloughs and very wet lands is necessary no doubt, but it is quite unnecessary to drain any soil that can be broken up eighteen inches or two feet by a subsoil plough; nor is it necessary to put a drain anywhere any deeper than to place it out of reach of the plough. A large quantity of the drainage water could be caught and saved in ponds and reservoirs. Every drained field from which the water is carried off three feet below the surface, greatly lessens the reserve in the soil, and robs some springs and wells of their only source of supply. The rainfall is the only feeder of wells and springs, and if this is cut off by drains and poured into rivers, there must be a deficiency in the supply stored in the subsoil and which should find its way into the wells or subterranean channels.

One may easily have too much of a good thing, which drainage is in its place. With the loss of the forests and by drainage, the soil has been almost wholly deprived of its water, and enormous floods and freshets have swept the land and poured into the rivers and the ocean a vast quantity of fertile surface soil, as well of elements of fertility which have been dissolved by the drainage water from the subsoil. Droughts of the worst kind have followed, and it is now one of the most serious questions for farmers to consider, what they are going to do about it. The Coles method may be found of value in a hill and valley country where the surface water is very quickly discharged into the streams. It might be improved by deepening the trenches; and thus made useful for level lands by carrying the surface water, where it might be found necessary, into the subsoil instead of the rivers.—*Henry Stewart, in N. Y. Tribune.*

TO MANAGERS OF FAIRS.

A word of advice on the licensing of showmen, peddlers, and gamblers at the autumn fairs, says *The Canada Farmer* is timely. The Industrial, last year, was open to little objection on this score; but not so with many of the other exhibitions of the province. At the Provincial there were several objectionable, though perhaps scarcely immoral exhibitions, staring visitors in the face at almost every approach to the main building. At another large fair no restriction wh

New England Farmer.

BOSTON:

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1884.

VERMONT STATE FAIR.

Reported Expressly for the New England Farmer.

[CONCLUDED.]

BURLINGTON, Vt., Sept. 12, 1884.

The State Fair which closes to-day has been a great success. The weather, though exceedingly warm, has been favorable to a large attendance and a larger attendance has been present. All were disappointed in not being able to listen to the address which had been announced to be given by Hon. Robert Lincoln, but learning that death of near relations was the cause of his non-attendance, no one could complain.

A heavy shower interrupted the out-door exercises for a half-hour yesterday, but with so many buildings, sheds and tents on the ground, nearly all found the needed shelter, and all were refreshed by the cooling of the atmosphere. We never met a happier nor a more orderly company of people anywhere than gathers at these annual Vermont cattle shows. There is always enough on the ground to feed the public, and less intoxicating fluids than at any large fairs we have been accustomed to attend, and the almost entire absence of drunkenness, oaths, vulgar language or noise of any kind has been good evidence that there is nothing sold under a false name.

The Vermont fair is really in advance of the New York State Fair in this regard, for Lager beer is freely sold there, though its sale is restricted to a single counter. We wish the Vermont people could see their way clear to go one step farther in the right direction and keep gambling and lottery schemes in every form off their grounds. There were something like twenty of these, where young men and boys, and even girls, were induced to part with their money in the hope of getting gold, where only brass was offered. The better class of farmers and others will bear out the officers of Agricultural Societies in every advanced step they may take in this direction.

At no fair have we ever seen the secretary's department kept in more perfect order, Mr. Brownell, with his small number of assistants, keeping every thing under perfect control at all times, and without the least confusion, at the same time being ever ready to answer all questions and aid every body in obtaining information.

The following is a nearly complete list of the premiums awarded, taken from the Society's books:

Horses.

Stock horses for general use with three of their get.

Stallions.—1st, M. C. Dorman, Swanton, "Star Ethan," silver medal, 2d, Fred Marcell, Middlebury, "Vermont Boy," bronze medal; 3, Foster Lamb, over 2 and under 3, E. Herring, Ticonderoga; 2d, Joseph Battelle, Middlebury; 3d, Franklin Waite, Burlington. 4 years old: 1st, Geo. H. Whalley, Charlotte; 2d, L. R. Jos lyn, Waitsfield. 3 years old: 1st, C. Morse Pompelier; 2d, J. E. Haring, Ticonderoga. 2 years old: 1st, E. S. Hale, Rutland; 2d, Alexander Hall, Shelburne; 3d, D. S. Bliss, Burlington. 1 year old: 1st, C. P. Holmes, Charlotte; 2d, H. S. Russell, Burlington.

Draft Stallions.—1st, $12, F. A. Woodbridge, Vergennes, for Clydesdale; Rotundus; 2d, $8, same, exhibitor, for "Flavel." 2 years old: 1st, $7, O. C. W. Potter, Shelburn, for "Emerald 2564."

Herd Horses.—1st, $12, C. H. & L. D. Weed, Hinesburg.

Brood Mares.—1st, $15, C. P. Holmes, Charlotte; 2d, $10, F. A. Wood, Shelburn; 3d, $5, Charles B. Russell, North Hero.

Geldings and Fillies.—4 years old: 1st and 2d, L. R. Joslyn, Waitsfield; 3d, M. C. Dorman, Swanton. 3 years old.—1st, Wm. Ellis, Fairhaven; 2d, B. Merriam, Fairhaven; 3d, R. K. Hamilton, Fairhaven. 2 years old: 1st, H. G. Holcomb, Isle La Motte; 2d, E. F. Brownell, Burlington; 3d, W. H. Streeter, Fairhaven. 1 year old: 1st, F. Wing, Burlington.

Matched Horses.—Over 15 hands, $25, J. & T. M. Tierney, St. Albans; 2d, $15, John Trow, Barre; 3d, $10, R. F. Bayland, Danville. 15½ hands, or under: 1st, $25, M. S. Bowman, Isle La Motte; 2d, $15, Longfield & Dean, Isle La Motte; 3d, $8 00, M. C. Dorman, Swanton.

Single Horses.—1st, $25, R. F. Bayland, Danville; 2d, $15, W. H. Streeter, Fairhaven; 3d, $10, Leonard Fish, Ira.

Cattle.

Shorthorns.—Best herd, Geo. L. Reynolds, Burlington, silver medal; 2d, C. R. Page, Morrisville, bronze medal. Bulls, 3 years or over, 1st, Geo. L. Reynolds, Burlington, $25; 2d, C. R. Page, $15. 2 years old, 1st, F. & L. E. Moore, Shorham; 2d, Joseph Ballard, Georgia; 3d, A. F. Waite, Brattleboro. 1 year old: 1st, O. E. Reynolds, South Burlington; 2d, M. D. Waller, St. Albans. Calves—1st, Geo. L. Reynolds, Burlington.

Cows and Heifers.—1st, F. & L. E. Moore; 2d, Geo. L. Reynolds; 3d, C. R. Page, Morrisville. 2 years old: 1st, F. & L. E. Moore, Shoreham; 2d, C. R. Page, Morrisville; 3d, A. F. Waite, Brattleboro. 1 year old: 1st, Geo. L. Reynolds; 2d, F. & L. E. Moore; 3d, O. E. Reynolds. Calves—1st, C. R. Page; 2d, M. D. Waller; 3d, Geo. L. Reynolds.

Devons.—No herd premiums awarded. Bulls—3 years old: 1st, Keller & Walston, Winooski; 2d, 2 year old: 1st, Kelley & Walston; 2d, C. W. Smith, Tunbridge. Calves—1st, Geo. I. Davis, 2d do, 3d, Kelley & Walston. Cows—1st, Keller & Walston; 2d, Geo. I. Davis, Windsor; 3d, Kelley & Walston; 3d, C. W. Smith. 2 years old: 1st and 2d, Keller & Walston. Calves—1st, Geo. I. Davis; 2d, Keller & Walston.

Ayrshires.—Best herd, 1st, H. S. Winslow, Brandon; 2d, Fred Drew, Burlington. Bulls—3 years old: 1st, C. M. Winslow, Brandon; 2 years old: 1st, H. A. Soule; 2d, Fred Drew, Burlington. Calves—1st, H. A. Soule; 2d, Fred Drew; 3d, C. M. Winslow. Cows—3 years old and over: 1st, C. M. Winslow; 2d, H. S. Winslow; 3d, Fred Drew. 2 years old: 1st, C. M. Winslow; 2d and 3d, Fred Drew. 1 year old: Fred Drew, 1st and 2d. Calves—C. M. Winslow, H. A. Soule, Fred Drew.

Holsteins.—Best herd, silver medal, to Henry W. Keyes, Newbury. Bulls—3 years or over: 1st, H. W. Keyes. 1 year old: 1st, G. F. O. Kimball, Vergennes. Bull calves—1st, H. W. Keyes.

Cows and Heifers.—3 years old, or over: H. W. Keyes, 1st, 2d and 3d. 2 years old: H. W. Keyes, 1st and 2d. 1 year old: H. W. Keyes, 1st, 2d and 3d.

Heifer Calves.—H. W. Keyes, 1st, 2d and 3d.

Jerseys.—Bulls, 3 years or over: 1st, C. W. Brownell, Whiting; 2d, Kelley & Walston, Winooski. 1 year old: 1st, G. D. Leonard, Hinesburg; 2d, C. R. Page, Morrisville. 2d, Kelley & Walston. 2 years old: 1st, H. R. Thomas, Ferrisburg.

Heifer Calves.—1st, J. M. Sherburn, North Pomfret; 2d, Kelley & Walston; 3d, H. R. Thomas.

General herd prize, silver medal to S. H. Weston, Winooski. Bulls—3 years old, or over: 1st, J. C. Sherburn, North Pomfret; 2d, H. S. Weston, Winooski. 2 years old: 1st, J. C. Sherburne, Bull calves—1st, D. G. H. Cannon, Burlington; 2d, J. C. Sherburne; 3d, S. H. Weston.

Cows and Heifers.—1st, Lot G. H. Cannon; 2d, S. H. Weston. 2 years old: 1st, S. H. Weston. 1 year old: 1st, Lot G. H. Cannon; 2d, H. S. Weston.

Heifer Calves.—1st, S. H. Weston.

Grades or Natives.—Cows, 3 years or over: Geo. F. O. Kimball, Vergennes, 1st and 2d; Geo. L. Reynolds, 3d. 2 years old: 1st and 3d, O. E. Reynolds; 2d, Geo. F. O. Kimball. 1 year old: 1st and 2d, C. W. Burnell; 3d, Keller & Walston. Calves—1st, Geo. F. O. Kimball; 2d, Keller & Walston; 3d, S. A. Carleton, Marshfield.

Working Oxen.—1st, W. S. Freeman, Richmond; 2d, Brigham & Walker, Burlington.

Matched Geldings—1st, J. W. North, Shoreham; 2d, W. H. Holton, Williston.

Steers.—3 years old: 1st, Brigham & Walker, Burlington; 2d, N. E. Spaulding, 3d, Wm. Millham, Shelburn. 2 years old: 1st, Wm. Millham. 1 year old: 2d and 3d, C. A. Smith, Vergennes.

Milch Cows.—Any age or any breed—1st $15, C. M. Winslow, Brandon; 2d, $10, Geo. L. Reynolds, Burlington.

Fat Oxen.—Joseph Ballard, Georgia, 1st, $12.

Fat Steers.—1st and 3d, Geo. L. Reynolds; 3d, O. E. Reynolds, So. Burlington.

Sheep.

Spanish Merinos.—Rams, 2 years old or over: 1st, $10, H. C. Burwell, Bridport; 2d, $5, Moore & Stickney, Shoreham. 1 year old and under 2: 1st, $25, Moore & Stickney. Pen of 3 ewes 2 years old: 1st, $25, 2d $15, H. C. Burwell, Bridport. Pen 1 year old and under 2: 1st, $25, H. C. Burwell; 2d, $15, E. N. Bissell, Shoreham.

Ram Lambs.—1st, $20, E. N. Bissell; 2d, $10, C. P. Morrison & Son, Addison. Pen of 3 ewe lambs: 1st, $20, E. N. Bissell; 2d, $10, C. P. Morrison & Son. Sweepstakes for flock, $100, H. C. Burwell. Sweepstakes for ram, $30, Stickney & Williams, Shoreham. Sweepstakes for ewe with 2 of her progeny, $25, H. C. Burwell. Largest and best display of fine wool sheep: 1st, silver medal, to H. C. Burwell; 2d, bronze medal, to E. N. Bissell.

Long Wools.—Stock ram, 2 years and over, with ten of his get: 1st, $15, R. G. Hill, Elmore; 2d, $10, Peter Robinson, Lacolle, P. Q. One year old: 1st, $7, R. G. Hill; 2d, $4, Peter Robinson. Pen of 10 ewes 2 years old or over: 1st, $10, Peter Robinson; 2d, $6, R. G. Hill. Pen of 10 ewes 1 year old: 1st, $8, P. Robinson; 2d, $5, R. G. Hill. Pen of 3 ram lambs: 1st, $6, P. Robinson; 2d, $5, R. G. Hill. Pen of 3 ewe lambs: 1st, $8, P. Robinson; 2d, $5, R. G. Hill.

Middle Wools.—Stock ram, 2 years old, with 10 of his get: 1st, $15, H. S. Town, Montpelier; 2d, $10, H. S. Pratt, Brattleboro. Ram, one year old: 1st, $7, H. S. Town; 2d, $5, Hadley & Hendee, Burlington. Pen of 10 ewes, 2 years or over: 1st, $10, H. S. Town; 2d, $6, Hadley & Hendee. Pen of 10 1 year old: 1st, $8, H. S. Pratt; 2d, $5, Hadley & Hendee. Pen 3 ram lambs: 1st, $8, H. S. Town; 2d, $5, Hadley & Hendee. Pen 3 ewe lambs: 1st, $8, H. S. Town; 2d, $5, Hadley & Hendee. Largest and best collection of Long Wools or Middle Wools: 1st, silver medal, H. S. Town; 2d, bronze medal, D. S. Pratt.

Swine.

Colored Hogs.—Boar 1 year old or over: 1st, J. W. Leonard, Barre; 2d, Leroy M. Holmes, West Springfield. Boar 6 months old: 1st, W. A. Farnham, Royalton. Sow, 6 months old: 1st, J. W. Leonard, Barre. Sow and pigs: 1st and 2d, Leroy M. Holmes, West Springfield.

White Hogs.—Boar 1 year old or over: 1st, John B. Mead, Randolph; 2d, Fred Drew, Burlington; 3d, F. P. Willard, East Montpelier. Boar 6 months old: 1st, O. C. & H. B. Palmer, Charlotte; 2d, Fred Drew; 3d, F. P. Willard. Sow: 1st, J. W. Leonard, Barre. Sow and sucking pigs: 1st, O. C. & H. B. Palmer; 2d, S. A. Carleton, Marshfield; 3d, J. B. Mead.

Dairy.

Butter.—Best table, Keller & Walston, Winooski. Sweepstakes, $10. Dairy butter: 1st, F. C. Forbes, So. Burlington, $8. Sept. butter: 1st, Powell Manufacturing Co., Burlington, $8; 2d, S. D. Jenks, So. Burlington, $5; 3d, Lyza Stevens, Richmond, $3.

Dairies for Shipping.—O. M. Hakham, No. Pomfret, $5; Geo. W. Johnson, Burlington.

Cheese.—Best, sweepstakes, L. H. Talcott, Willistion, $10 gold spoon; Dairy W. F. Chapin, Essex, $8; Strong Bros., Huntington, $5; J. H. Allen, Westford, $3. Factory: L. H. Talcott, Williston, $8; D. J. Wallston, Hinesburg, $5; Albert Ray, $3.

Vegetables.

Best display: 1st, Hiram Merrihew, Charlotte; 2d, Wm. E. Allen, Winooski.

CANNED FRUITS.—1st, Sarah V. Brownell, Williston; 2d, Mrs. Luther Putnam, Cambridge.

JELLIES.—1st, Mrs. L. Putnam.

MAPLE SUGAR.—1st, Curtis Wheeler, Fairfax; 2d, D. P. Coveney, Danville.

MAPLE SYRUP.—1st, H. A. Bixby, So. Burlington; 2d, H. C. Wheeler, Fairfax.

HONEY.—1st, Miss Ida Hanks, Waybridge; 2d, J. Cosgriff, Shelburne; 3d, Thomas Fisher, Vergennes.

APPLES.—Best and largest collection: 1st, G. B. Andrews, Huntington; 2d, Horatio Hickok, Burlington.

PEARS.—Largest and best collection: 1st, Otto Okerbland, Burlington; 2d, C. W. Brownell, Williston.

CONNECTICUT STATE FAIR.

Specially Reported for the NEW ENGLAND FARMER.

The Connecticut State Agricultural Society's Fair opened at Meriden on Tuesday, the 16th, under the most favorable auspices. After the excessive heat of the previous two weeks, and the light frosts on Saturday and Sunday nights, a change to genuine September weather was highly acceptable to all. A few evening showers, to lay the dust, would have made everybody happy.

The exhibition of live stock was fully up to the average of former years, in some departments excelling that of any previous year. In the cattle sheds we found over thirty pairs of working oxen and steers, early in the morning of the first day, and at 10 o'clock, a town team of thirty-four yokes came upon the ground, headed by a band of music, and drawing a large gaily decorated team wagon, loaded with a delegation from the household departments of the farm houses of Meriden. Oxen appear to outnumber horses in the Connecticut fairs, though the latter will doubtless come in larger numbers later in the exhibit.

JERSEYS.—In the pens of pure bred stock, we find the Jerseys leading this year, with over one hundred head of very fine ones on exhibition. A. B. Colgrove, Maple Grove Farm, Middleton, exhibits thirty-two head of pure breds, which he has raised from a few animals purchased about seven years ago. He reports sales of animals during the time, at prices ranging from $175 to $500 each, and has a Coomassie bull whose service brings him $50. His sales have nearly paid the cash cost of the purchases, leaving the present herd of fifty chargeable only with expense of rearing and keeping. Breeders of any kind of good stock, who can begin in a small way and gain such uniform success are likely to feel quite happy. The next largest herd of Jerseys is shown by Wallace Barnes of Bristol, who shows sixteen head that are remarkably uniform in appearance and of very high merit. Charles J. Allen, Terryville, shows eight choice specimens, among them three bulls, Pedro Thornton, Orionda and Judy's Prince, the latter carrying off the Sweepstakes prize for bulls of any age at the State exhibit of last year. Thomas Fairclough of Wolcott, shows two very handsome bulls and a cow and heifer. A herd of twelve Jerseys of more than average quality and size, including 5 cows, 4 heifers, and 3 bulls, good butter stock, is exhibited by Dr. N. Foote of Colchester. L. S. Wells and Son, Springdale Farm, New Britain, bring in eight head, including a four-year-old cow good for two pounds of butter per day on winter feed.

Last, but not least, is the herd of nearly twenty animals, entered in the name of Cherry Park Co., D. D. Bishop President, of Cheshire. There have been large displays of Jerseys in previous years, and excellent animals, too, but this year they have certainly outdone themselves in numbers, if not in quality. The most attractive display is that of the

HOLSTEINS.—S. L. Warner & Son, New Milford: H. O. Warner, same town, and T. S. Gold, West Cornwall, show 32 head of this breed. The Warners are importing freely from the best herds in North Holland and Friesland, and have three very fine herds now in the State, and a large addition on the way.

Mr. Gold has recently imported a young bull and three heifers, which he will keep to compare with the Ayrshires as milk producers for market purposes. No extra fussing or feeding has been given them, yet they are showing good, thrifty growth, and are full of promise.

DEVONS.—The number of exhibitors in the Devon class is smaller than in some previous years. The extreme hot weather of the past few weeks discouraged some of the old stagers from entering their stock to be transported in hot cattle cars. President James A. Bill of Lyme, had 22 head, probably as choice as any equal number that could be found anywhere. Mr. Stanley Griswold, Torrington, who has a large herd at home that he has been fifty years in breeding, brought only one animal, a large five year old bull, weighing about 1800 pounds. Mr. Griswold led this animal thirty miles over the highway to the fair. Joseph W. Rogers, East Berlin, brings a small herd of good grade Devons.

AYRSHIRES.—In the Ayrshire class we miss the large exhibits of S. M. & D. Wells, Wethersfield, which are usually out in such large numbers at the Connecticut shows and elsewhere. D. Wells shows a herd of ten choice animals with the bull *Gold King* standing at the head. Gold King is two years old and has a long line of prize winning ancestors in his list of ancestors. The largest herd is shown by Charles Parker, Meriden, who has 18 head. N. E. Sears, Elmwood, with nine well chosen animals, will give the judges some work to do in deciding upon merits.

SWINE.—Isaac Barnes, Collinsville, and W. R. Fish, Mystic, each exhibit a grand herd of Swiss cattle. Mr. Barnes has the first Swiss cow brought to this country, *Geneva*, 17 years old, imported by D. G. Aldrich of Worcester. What is better yet, Geneva has the largest record of any cow of the breed in the country.

GUERNSEYS.—Two herds only of Guernseys are shown; one fine one of 10, by Col. A. Warner of Pomfret, and another of 5 by C. E. Williams of Stonington. The Warner herd now numbers 21 animals, and like the Jersey herd of Mr. Colegrove, paid all the first cost of purchase, and returned a handsome income beside. Col. Warner & Son have been breeding this stock only about half a dozen years. Good care and wise selection had much to do in bringing them their success. Their cow Fannie, seven years old, has a butter record of 16 lbs. 4 oz. in seven days. Instead of charging $50 or $100 for bull service they invite their neighbors to improve their common stock by paying $3 for the service of their best bulls.

HEREFORDS.—Cyrus P. Gaylord, Terryville, shows the only herd of Herefords, among them a noble four year old bull, *Victor*.

SWINE.—The exhibition of swine seems to be confined to five pens. C. F. Hamlin, Plantsville; Edwin C. Halbert, Cornwall; E. B. Clark, Meriden, and D. A. Culver, Southington, being the only contestants.

SHEEP.—Connecticut beats Vermont this year, in her exhibit of sheep, having the largest number we have seen together at any Fair for many years. J. W. Yale, Meriden, leads with eight pens of Cotswolds, all slightly tinted with the red sandstone soil of these Connecticut pastures. James A. Bill has the largest number of any exhibitor, and includes the long wools, middle wools, and fine wooled Merinos. He has twenty-two pens, and also three pens of Cashmere goats, numbering in all over 150 animals.

Atwood Merinos, so noted the world over, are displayed by W. H. Atwood, Watertown, in ten pens.

T. S. Gold has three pens of highly bred Southdowns, remarkable for the evenness of fleece. Cyrus P. Gaylord, Terryville, shows two pens of grades.

POULTRY.—The display of poultry was of excellent quality; Light Brahmas and Brown Leghorns, particularly so. John Cornell, Meriden, had excellent specimens of the former, and A. E. Birdsey of the latter.

Walter E. Miller of Meriden, had good Plymouth Rocks, and W. F. Cutter, Jr., Meriden, a fine display of geese of several varieties.

Pekin ducks were shown by C. E. Spink of Meriden.

One side of a large building was filled with coops of pigeons and doves, in almost endless variety.

MACHINERY.—Agricultural implements in great variety are shown in a large tent, and several exhibitors are compelled to exhibit in the open air.

The track is one of the centres of attraction, as usual, in the afternoon. The keepers of victualing stands are serving customers promptly. There is a little lager beer for those who think they must have it; and there are a few opportunities offered the boys for spending their dimes in games which rarely pay the patron, but always carry money into the pockets of those who neither earn it nor give an equivalent for it; but on the whole, the moral atmosphere of the Connecticut State Fair Ground compares well with most others. It will be better when the people demand it; and that should be soon.

THE MASSACHUSETTS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY'S EXHIBITION.

The fifty-sixth annual fall exhibition of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, which began on Tuesday of the present week, at their hall in this city, has certainly never been equalled since our recollection, and we doubt if it has ever been surpassed in the whole history of the Society. The season has been particularly favorable, in this vicinity at least, to the growth and perfection of both fruits and vegetables, and the spirit of emulation, which the Society has done so much to foster among gardners and fruit growers, as well as the liberal amount of the prizes offered in every department, has led exhibitors to contribute their handsomest and most valuable specimens.

The lower hall was used for the display of fruits and vegetables, which were shown in such profusion, that a sort of "overflow" exhibition of grapes had to be made in the library room. The number of entries of apples and pears especially was entirely unprecedented, and this being the "apple year" in this vicinity, the specimens of every variety were larger, fairer and more free from worms than is usually the case.

The grapes are entitled to a chapter by themselves, but it must here be made brief. Never has there been in the hall a better show of foreign or hothouse grapes. One bunch of black Hamburgs there is that weighs five pounds and four ounces. The out-door varieties are less notable, excepting the "Moore's Early," the weather not having been wholly favorable; still they all deserve to be shown and to be seen. There was at least one show of most inviting Crawford peaches, and the show of plums was large and attractive, including several varieties not before exhibited.

The display of garden vegetables was such as we believe could be made nowhere else in this country, whether we consider the number of varieties of every kind, or the excellence of each individual specimen.

The upper hall was devoted to the floral display. The total number of plants was considerably greater than on any previous occasion. While many were familiar, all were fine, luxuriant specimens, and two or three quite novel. There were half a dozen or more which may be classed as exceedingly rare. The authurium veitchii, the musa superba, and two or three varieties of palms, tower conspicuously among the rest and give a forest-like suggestiveness to the scene. Among the less in stature, but still conspicuous, were the licuala grandis, the pritchardia, the various ferns, the variegated ivy plants, and, notably, the pitcher plants. Some of these last have the largest pitchers ever seen in the hall, capable of holding each a pint of water. The plants of ornamental foliage surpass the rest, but many of the flowering plants are of great beauty and luxuriance. The show of cut flowers was not up to the usual standard, the frost and cool weather having been detrimental to them in many places. Still, there were fine specimens, and among the notabilities are the lilliputian dahlias. The show of orchids was not extensive, but contained many choice specimens.

A special feature of the exhibition was the large tank in the upper hall, containing the most wonderful specimens of nymphæas, representing the exotic family of water lilies. Among these are Nymphæa Devoniensis, a scarlet water lily of the most intense hue, some twelve or fourteen inches in diameter; another of still rarer quality is Nymphæa Zanzibariensis, a lily of royal purple, never shown in this country but once before, and of the same size as the other. Besides these there was the Egyptian lotus flower and the great Victoria Regia of the Amazon, with leaves from five to six feet in diameter, and capable of sustaining a child. These plants were shown by Mr. E. G. Sturtevant of Bordentown, N. J., who is the only large cultivator of this class of plants in the United States.

LOCAL SHOWS.

The Caledonia County Fair at St. Johnsbury, Vt., opened on Tuesday. It rained hard during a part of the forenoon, which undoubtedly lessened entries materially. In cattle and horses 358 entries were made. In no department was the show as large as last year. There were five town strings of oxen. St. Johnsbury entered two strings, average weight of oxen in one of them, 3950 pounds per pair. The heaviest yoke, entered by E. & T. Fairbanks, weighed 6000 pounds. Barnet's string averaged 4100 pounds, the heaviest yoke, by James Ray, weighing 5060. These two yokes are the heaviest ever exhibited in Caledonia County. There was a fine lot of thoroughbred stock present. L. B. Harris of Lyndon exhibited a fine lot of Hereford cows and a yearling bull, weight 1100 pounds; also showed fifty native cows with grade calves by their sides. T. N. Vail of Lyndon showed a herd of Aberdeen Angus polled cattle, that attracted much attention, and a yearling bull which weighed over 1200 pounds. R. G. Hill of Elmore made a fine exhibit of Cotswold sheep. Premiums on town teams of oxen were awarded as follows: Lyndon, first; Barnet, second; St. Johnsbury, third and fifth, Waterford, fourth. There was a large exhibit of Jerseys, which are growing in favor every year. There was a good exhibit in the floral hall.

The eighth annual Exhibition of the Belknap County Agricultural Association at Laconia, N. H., on Tuesday, attracted fully 1000 people, the largest number ever present on the first day. It holds three days, and promises to excel all former exhibitions, the entries being numerous and of the best quality, pronounced by many to equal those at the State Fair.

The attendance at the Fair of the Coos and Essex Agricultural Society, at Laconia, N. H., was unusually large, and the entries in all departments were full, and the display excellent. The purse for horses that never trotted for money, was won by G. H. Fitzgerald's bay mare of Island Pond. The base ball game between the Colebrooks and Lancasters, was won by the latter.

The thirty-first annual Exhibition of the Middlesex South Agricultural Society, opened Tuesday morning on their grounds at Framingham. The display of vegetables, fruits, etc., was far above those of recent years. The most noteworthy exhibition was that of Messrs. A. & G. W. Chadwick, of Framingham, who show 175 varieties. N. B. Douglass of Sherborn, exhibited stalks of ensilage corn sixteen feet and three inches in height. Several of the Granges in the county made excellent displays. The annual dinner, on Wednesday, was furnished by the ladies of the Society, and addresses were made by Col. Daniel Needham, and others.

THE EASTERN MAINE FAIR.

The second annual exhibit of the Eastern Maine Agricultural Society at Bangor last week was very successful, though to some extent hampered by unfavorable weather on the last two days. Since last year great improvements have been made in the grounds at Maplewood Park by grading, filling up hollows, erecting new buildings, and otherwise re-arranging matters for the convenience of exhibitors. The number of stalls for horses was increased nearly one-half, and still there has been found to be none too much room, and next year further additions will be made. A new exhibition building, two stories high, was erected back of the grand stand, and this was filled with agricultural implements, poultry and dairy exhibits. The Hereford cattle, which Messrs. Burleigh & Bodwell have done so much to introduce to the people of New England, were the principal feature of the exhibition. The principal exhibitors in this class, were Messrs. Burleigh & Bodwell, who showed 21 head, C. A. Atkinson of Norridgewock, 44 head, B. F. Hilton of Starks, who showed 9 head, among them being a bull weighing 1880 lbs., Gilbert Underwood of Fayette 12 head, and J. F. Gowen of Farmington 11 head.

The most extensive exhibit of Jersey cattle on the grounds was that of Orestes Pierce, of East Baldwin, who had 24 head of Jerseys from the Saddleback Farm. The famous bull Romeo de Bonair heads the herd. He is beyond doubt the best butter bull in America, having 21 relatives in the 14 lbs. list and 5 of over 20 lbs., whose average is 23 lbs., 8 oz., in 7 days. Beauty of the Grange heads the cows and is a noted prize winner. She has taken first prizes in the Island of Jersey three times. Has also taken first prizes in New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, New England Fair, and in Maine. Her value is not stated, but must be among the thousands. Nonpareil, another big winner, cost, according to Mr. Pierce, $3000. The herd contains many others far too numerous to mention, but also valuable.

Shorthorns were shown by Howard & Ellis, Fairfield, Waugh Brothers, Starks, H. A. Higgins of Charleston and others. A. W. King, Charleston, had a thoroughbred shorthorn bull, three years old, weighing 2200 pounds.

Grade cattle were numerous, the Hereford grades predominating, many of which were exceptionally fine animals, Henry Corbett of Farmington showing 10 head, and B. J. Weston of Madison 13 head.

In the swine department Charles A. Chase of Carmel had 14 of the Yorkshire and White Chester breeds. John F. Frye had a fine large exhibit of the North Lancashire breed.

The display of sheep was very large and one of the best ever seen at any fair in Maine. W. B. Ferguson of Dixmont and George P. Greenleaf of Starks showed some fine looking animals. Those belonging to the latter are grade Spanish. Winslow Arey of Hampden had some very pretty Cotswolds and Southdowns. F. B. Hilton of Starks exhibited 22 Spanish merinos, and Hebron Luce of Bangor, Southdowns. C. P. Mattocks of Portland had a good display, but probably the largest and best was the show of Shropshires from the Maine State College farm at Orono. Mr. G. M. Gowell, the efficient farm superintendent, has taken great pains with his sheep, and shows some exceedingly fine specimens.

The entries of horses were very large, and many of them are entitled to special attention. Glenarm, the fine six year old stallion, owned by C. P. Drake of Lewiston, is probably the finest horse on the grounds. He took the first prize for stallions for general use at the State Fair last fall. Lawrence & Gerald had the finest general exhibit on the grounds. Among them Dr. Franklin and his numerous progeny, all fine looking animals, which attracted universal attention. There was an unusual number of handsome black horses. Prominent among these was Raven, owned by A. J. Goss of Levant. Another handsome stallion is Mambrino Lance, owned by A. C. Milliken of Bangor. He has been the subject of a number of complimentary notices which were surely well deserved. A very handsome and much admired gray horse is Norman Boy, owned by H. F. Tibbetts of Glenburn.

One of the large horses on exhibition was the Clydesdale "Barrister" from Charlottetown, Prince Edward's Island. He weighs 2000 pounds, and is very handsome and finely proportioned. He was imported from England and has won many prizes both there and in this country. Gen. W. S. Tilton exhibited four fine looking horses. Constellation is one of his entries in the 2.40 class for stallions. C. H. Nelson, of Waterville, had seven nice horses, among them being C. H., the fast two year old, and Oliver, half brother to Jay-Eye-See and Phallas.

In the hall at the Park was an excellent exhibition of agricultural implements and machinery, stoves, sewing machines, stone-ware, furniture, pianos, etc. The exhibition of Aroostook county products prepared by Mr. G. W. P. Jerrard of Caribou, was particularly full, comprising specimens of the minerals and soil of the county, samples of the grains, and grasses of the section with their seeds, handsome specimens of all the vegetables grown in the county, a collection of the different kinds of woods found in the forest, together with manufactured lumber, wool and cloths of domestic manufacture, starch from Aroostook potatoes, one of the great staples of the county's productions, glass hives of bees, honey, fruits, and productions of all kinds, which were a great surprise to those who had never visited the garden region of "Way down East."

The pomological and horticultural products were on exhibition at City Hall, where several excellent displays of each were made, the show of apples being especially large and fine. At Norombega Hall was gathered all the needle and fancy work, the Art Department and the cat show. The Art Department comprises 159 paintings and sketches by local artists, with 84 paintings and curios loaned to the exhibition by the residents of Bangor, the whole forming an exhibit of rare merit for one gathered together from a small portion of the State. A somewhat novel, and really very interesting feature of this part of the exhibition was the cat show, embracing sixty-one cages, containing among others "Richelieu," which bore away the prize at the Boston and Philadelphia exhibitions last year. "Sir Joseph Porter," a handsome Angora cat owned by Col. Hamlin, and many other handsome specimens of Angora, tiger and coon cats. The address Thursday by Dr. Loring, U. S. Commissioner of Agriculture, drew together a large audience, but on account of rain it had to be delivered from the grand stand, and many thus did not hear it who would under other circumstances. It was a valuable effort, and warmly greeted by the audience.

THE MECHANICS' FAIR.

The fifteenth triennial exhibition of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association was opened on Wednesday of last week, the opening exercises taking place in the main hall, the galleries of which were well filled with spectators. Preceding the formal opening of the ceremonies a promenade concert was given on the great organ by W. J. D. Leavitt and by Reeves's American Band of Providence. At 12.15 P. M. the Board of Government of the Association, headed by President T. J. Whidden, and accompanied by Gov. Robinson, Mayor Martin, ex-President Runkle of the Institute of Technology, the Rev. E. A. Horton, ex-Mayor Green, and Hon. Chas. L. Flint, took seats upon the platform. After prayer by the Rev. Mr. Horton, President Whidden made the opening address: he regretted that it fell to him to make that address, because the event which placed him there was the death of the Hon. Charles R. McLean, to whose memory and ability he paid a high tribute. Of the exhibition itself he said that no pains had been spared by the management to make it complete and instructive. He pointed out its peculiarly home character, showing only New England products, of which there is a plenty without going to other States or countries to make a display. He thanked his hearers for the support which they have given in the past, and bespoke an equal support in the future, in view of the prime object of the association, the promotion of the mechanic arts and the relief of worthy mechanics under temporary distress. He extended to the many similar institutions to be found through the country the hearty good wishes of the association for the success of their endeavors to instruct as well as to entertain.

Addresses were also made by His Excellency the Governor, on behalf of the Commonwealth, His Honor the Mayor on behalf of the city, Col. Theodore Lyman, as the representative of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and Prof. Runkle of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The Exhibition is now in perfect order and running very smoothly, and is attracting, as it deserves, a large daily attendance. In many respects the present exhibition is the best one ever held by the Society, and especially in the display that is made of the most recent inventions and discoveries. The greatest novelty, doubtless, is the electric railway, 400 feet in length, along which trips are made every few minutes. Probably, a few years hence, the electric railway will be in practical use and will be no more of a curiosity than the ordinary steam railroad is today, but just at present, it attracts universal attention.

A CELEBRATED WEAPON.—Messrs. Wm. Read & Sons of 107 Washington St., offer for sale, at the fabulously low price of five dollars each, a limited number of the celebrated "Sharp's Rifles" a weapon, which, first brought into conspicuous notice in the "bleeding Kansas" times of thirty years ago, is now, "in these weak, piping times of peace," as well adapted for the pacific uses of hunting or target shooting, as it was then for saving to freedom one of the fairest portions of our wide western domain. The rifles which Messrs Read & Sons offer for sale, are in every respect perfect, not, as might be inferred from the price, second hand or worn-out weapons, but new and unused just as they came from the hands of the maker. They were originally manufactured for the United States government, and are of the best approved model and construction, sold, as were the McClellan saddles offered by the same firm, because the country was happily at peace, and did not need so great a stock of warlike material.

THE CATTLE DISEASE.

Reports of the prevalence of contagious pleuro pneumonir in Illinois, have to some extent subsided, though there is still naturally some alarm, in view of the highly sensational accounts that have been so widely circulated. The Jersey cattle seem to be the worst sufferers from the rumors, if not from the disease itself. One of the results of the scare has been that the Board of Directors of the St. Louis Fair Association have decided to exclude the Jersey cattle entirely from exhibition at the Fair this year, which will open October 6th. Secretary Edge, of the Pennsylvania State Board of Agriculture, says of the recent proclamation of Governor Hamilton, of Illinois, prohibiting cattle from eleven counties in Pennsylvania from being imported into his State, by reason of the pleuro pneumonia, that the whole business "was all buncombe," since the only places in Pennsylvania where contagious cattle disease was alleged to exist were carefully guarded, and every precaution was taken against the spread of the disease, the contagious character of which was not, by any means, proved. It is, of course, proper that every precaution should be taken against the introduction or spread of dangerous maladies among our domestic animals, but it is certainly injudicious and unwise to magnify isolated cases of common and unavoidable diseases into widespread and fatal epizootics, as has apparently been done in this case, to the great injury of our inter-state cattle traffic, and to the needless alarm of breeders and stock-raisers all over the country.

A BLACK LIST of diseases follows an unhealthy condition of the liver, one of the most important organs of the body. Impure blood, bronchitis, asthma, malarial diseases, consumption, sick-headache, diseases of the skin, kidneys and heart—all may be traced to faulty action or torpidity of the liver. No other known preparation so rapidly and thoroughly restores a disordered liver as Dr. Pierce's "Golden Medical Discovery." It is pleasant to the taste, mild but sure in its action, and a gift to suffering humanity from one of the most successful physicians of the age.

Miscellaneous Items.

☞ The Sea View House, Salisbury Beach, a small hotel, was burned Saturday night.

☞ A Mexican steamer was lost off Frying Pan Shoals, North Carolina coast, Saturday night, and five men drowned.

☞ The greater portion of the town of Clearlake, Wisconsin, was swept away by a cyclone on Tuesday. Three lives were lost.

☞ The barn of Amos Saunders in Rowley was burned Sunday forenoon, with a horse, poultry, and seven tons of hay. The house was saved, though badly damaged.

☞ The boiler of a cotton compress, at Eufaula, Alabama, exploded on Monday, setting fire to the building, and burning 300 bales of cotton. Five persons

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The following gentlemen, who are authorized Agents for the NEW ENGLAND FARMER, will canvass for subscribers and collections in the following Counties in New England:—

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Subscribers are requested to forward their subscriptions without waiting for the Agent to call. The date on the label will always show how far they have paid.

PARTICULAR NOTICE.

New subscribers who pay not less than one year's subscription *in advance*, will also receive, in connection with the NEW ENGLAND FARMER, twelve consecutive numbers of THE POULTRY POST, beautifully illustrated, and thoroughly practical paper, devoted entirely to the poultry interest. *The Poultry Post* is not an advertising sheet, but a complete publication, containing in each issue much more columns of just such practical information upon the breeding, rearing, feeding, management and marketing of poultry, as is needed by every farmer, and it will be furnished to subscribers on the above terms, without further charge of any kind.

THE POULTRY POST will also be sent, on the same terms, to our *old subscribers*, that is, any subscriber now upon our list, who pays for this FARMER *for one year in advance from the end of the current month*, will receive the twelve monthly numbers of the *Poultry Post*, without further charge. We are obliged to make this stipulation in order to have the subscriptions to both papers bear the same date, thus avoiding many errors on our own books, or those of the *Post*.

Farmers' Directory.

The business Houses whose cards appear in this column are among the best and most reliable in the city.

AMOS KEYES & CO.,
COMMISSION MERCHANTS,
AND DEALERS IN
Butter, Cheese, Eggs, Flour, Beans,
Poultry, Dried & Evaporated Apples, &c.,
26 Blackstone Street, Boston.
AMOS KEYES. FRED. L. KEYES. CHAS. A. KEYES.

ESTABLISHED 1856.
WM. F. BROOKS & CO.
Commission Merchants, and Wholesale Dealers in
FLOUR AND COUNTRY PRODUCE,
Butter, Cheese, Eggs, Beans, Pork, Lard, Poultry, Dried Apples, &c.
Country Consignments Solicited.
28 Blackstone St., under New England House.
WM. F. BROOKS. BOSTON. CHAS. O. BROOKS.

INSURANCE.

Quincy Mutual Fire Insurance Co.
CASH FUND, JANUARY 1, 1883, . . . $182,451.87
Surplus over Re-Insurance, ... $271,818.40
Cash in Cash Fund the past year, ... 22,268.97
Cash in Cash Surplus the past year, ... 15,309.66
AND EVERY LOSS PAID IN FULL.
Amount at risk, $26,117,877.00.
Total Liabilities, $190,632.57
Dividends paid on every Expiring Policy: 50 per cent. on 5 years, 30 per cent. on 3 years, and 20 per cent. on all others.
ISRAEL W. MUNROE, Pres't and Treas.
CHAS. A. HOWLAND, Sec'y. 17

The special carpet sale of Messrs. John & James Dobson, 525 & 527 Washington St., will attract, by reason of very low prices for first class goods, all those who are in need of anything in this line. See advertisement in another column.

THE WAR IN CHINA--HOW IT AFFECTS TEA.

The French declaration of war against China, created some apprehension in the tea trade in New York, and a prominent importer is reported as saying that the price of teas will advance, while another said the two countries, in case of war, would undoubtedly respect the treaty stipulations in regard to the five treaty ports. Hong Kong had been ceded to the British, and the ports of Foo Chow, Amoy, and Shanghai were the three from which we get our supplies of tea. The French, in case of war, would have a base of supplies in Saigong, which is a rice port, where their vessels could be refitted. The Island of Formosa sends its teas to Amoy, where they are sold, as there are no facilities of disposing of them at home. "Canton has a large line of trade in articles other than tea," he added, "and it would be difficult for France to blockade that port so as to prevent merchandise from leaving. There would be no interference with Hong Kong."

In London, on the announcement of the bombardment of Foo Chow, tea advanced ¼d to ½d per pound, and a further advance is expected, while the market is very firm, and the amount of tea afloat there is reported as seven million pounds less than was incoming at that port at the corresponding time last year, while teas, other than those from Foo Chow, remain unaltered in price.

In Chicago no change in price is noted, and the general opinion is that it is yet too early to make any predictions, although speculators will doubtless lose no opportunity to subserve their ends.—*Northwestern Grocer.*

FORTY tons of silver and three of gold are used in the manufacture of photographs in this country annually.

General Intelligence.

PERSONAL.

The International Forestry Exhibition at Edinburgh has awarded a gold medal of the first class to Professor Riley of the Department of Agriculture at Washington.

Peter Wagner, a member of Congress in 1808, the contemporary and friend of Daniel Webster, Henry Clay, John Quincy Adams, John C. Calhoun and William H. Seward, died at Fort Plain, N. Y., on Sunday, in his 90th year.

Dr. Eliza Mosher and Dr. Lucy M. Hall, who were for some time physicians at the Sherborn prison for women, have been appointed joint professors of physiology and physicians to Vassar College, and will enter upon their duties at the opening of the college year.

One of the most extensive farmers of Georgia is Hon. J. M. Smith of Oglethorpe, who has 18,000 acres of land. Of this there is 1,000 acres in cotton, 2500 in corn, and the tillable land in other crops. He has on his plantation over 200 mules and horses, besides other stock. There are about 1000 men, women and children on the place to feed. The farm is self-sustaining, raising all kinds of food, even to sugar-cane.

Acting Secretary of State Davis has sent the following letter to United States Consul Frank H. Mason, who has remained at Marseilles during the cholera epidemic in that city and Toulon: "I take pleasure in expressing to you the high appreciation of the department for the courage and devotion which you have evinced by continuing at your post during the prevalence of the scourge which has visited those cities, in the face of danger which has surrounded you since its outbreak. Your report is exceedingly interesting, and the information it conveys of a very useful character."

ONE of the greatest advances in practical economy to ladies, both as to time and expense, is the drying and cleansing of dresses and garments, without even taking apart. Not even necessary to remove the linings. All colors (the goods will allow) are dyed, and the dress is returned finished quite equal to new.

A valuable book, giving full information and prices, is mailed free, on application to LEWANDO'S French Dye-House, 17 Temple Place, Boston.

AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITIONS. 1884

State, Provincial, &c.

Maine,	Lewiston,	Sept. 23-26
Massachusetts Charitable Mechanics,	Boston,	Sept. 10-Nov. 1
N.E. Mechanics & Manufacturers Institute,	Boston,	Sept. 3-Nov. 1
Rhode Island	Providence,	Sept. 22-26

County and Local.

MAINE.

Baldwin and Sebago,	East Sebago,	Oct. 7
Bristol,	Bristol,	Sept. 30-Oct. 2
Buxton and Hollis,	Buxton,	Oct. 1-3
Castine Grange,	Castine,	Oct. 2
Cumb-rland Farm. Club,	Cumberland,	Oct. 1, 2
Dresden Farm. Club,	Dresden,	Oct. 7, 8
Ea. Eddington F. C.,	Ea. Eddington,	Oct. 1
Franklin Co.,	Farmington,	Oct. 7-9
Gorham and Standish,	Sebago Lake,	Sept. 30
Kennebec,	Readfield Cor.,	Sept. 30-Oct. 2
Kennebec, North,	Waterville,	Sept. 30, Oct. 1
Knox,	Rockland,	Sept. 30, Oct. 1-3
Knox, North,	Appleton,	Oct. 7-9
Machias,	Machias,	Sept. 24, 25
Oxford Co.,	South Paris,	Oct. 7-9
Penobscot, West,	Exeter,	Sept. 30, Oct. 1
Piscataquis, East,	Milo,	Sept. 24, 25
Richmond,	Richmond,	Sept. 30
Sagadahoc,	Topsham,	Oct. 14-16
Somerset Central,	Skowhegan,	Sept. 30
Union,	Edes Falls,	Oct. 7, 8
Waldo Co.,	Belfast,	Oct. 8, 9
Waldo and Penobscot,	Monroe,	Oct. 1, 2
Washington, West,	Jonesboro',	Oct. 1, 2

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

Bradford,	Bradford,	Sept. 30, Oct. 1
Grafton Co.,	Plymouth,	Sept. 24-25
Kearsarge,	Warner,	Sept. 24, 25
Oak Park Ass'n,	Greenfield,	Sept. 22, 23
Rochester,	Rochester,	Sept. 30, Oct. 1
Suncook Valley,	Pittsfield,	Sept. 30, Oct. 1
Upper Coos and Essex,	Colebrook,	Sept. 24, 25

VERMONT.

Dog River Valley,	Northfield,	Sept. 25-27
Lamoille Valley,	Morristown,	Sept. 23-25
Windsor Co.,	Woodstock,	Sept. 23-25
World's,	Tunbridge,	Sept. 30, Oct. 2

MASSACHUSETTS.

Amesbury & Salisbury,	Newburyport,	Sept. 30, Oct. 1
Ashburnham Farm. Club,	Ashburnham,	Sept. 30
Barnstable,	Barnstable,	Sept. 23, 24
Berlin Farm. Club,	Berlin,	Sept. 26
Blackstone Valley,	Uxbridge,	Sept. 24, 25
Bolton Farmers' Club,	Bolton,	Oct. 1
Bristol,	Taunton,	Sept. 30, Oct. 1, 2
Bristol, South,	New Bedford,	Sept. 24-26
Brockton,	Brockton,	Oct. 1-3
Essex,	Salem,	Sept. 23, 24
Franklin,	Greenfield,	Sept. 25, 26
Hampshire, Franklin, and Hampden,	Northampton,	Oct. 1-3
Hingham,	Hingham,	Sept. 23, 24
Housatonic,	Gt. Barrington,	Sept. 24-26
Hillside,	Cummington,	Sept. 23, 24
Holden Farm. Club,	Holden,	Sept. 23
Hubbardston F. Club,	Hubbardston,	Sept. 23
Lunenburg Far. Club,	Lunenburg,	Sept. 26
Martha's Vineyard,	West Tisbury,	Sept. 30, Oct. 1
Middlesex,	Waltham,	Sept. 23-24
Milford Farmers' Club,	Milford,	Oct. 1
Oakham Farm. Club,	Oakham,	Sept. 25
Pepperell Farm. Club,	Pepperell,	Oct. 1
Rutland Farm. Club,	Rutland,	Sept. 24
Upton Farm. Club,	Upton,	Sept. 26
Westboro, Hall Show,	Westboro,	Sept. 24, 25
West Brookfield Farmers' Club,	W. Brookfield,	Oct. 8
Weymouth Ag'l Soc.,	So. Weymouth,	Sept. 23-27
Worcester, North,	Fitchburg,	Sept. 23, 24
Worcester, Northwest,	Athol,	Sept. 30, Oct. 1
Worcester, West,	Barre,	Sept. 25, 26

CONNECTICUT.

Chester,	Chester,	Oct. 2
Clinton,	Clinton,	Oct. 1
Danbury,	Danbury,	Oct. 6-11
Fairfield Co.,	Norwalk,	Sept. 29-Oct. 3
Farmington Valley,	Collinsville,	Sept. 30, Oct. 1
Guilford,	Guilford,	Oct.
Killingwo th,	Killingworth,	Sept. 24
New London Co.,	Norwich,	Sept. 23-26
Pequabuck,	Bristol,	Sept. 25, 26
Simsbury,	Simsbury,	Oct. 8, 9
Stafford,	Stafford Springs,	Oct. 8-10
Suffield,	Suffield,	Oct. 1, 2
Southington,	Southington,	Oct. 14-16
Tolland,	Rockville,	Oct. 14, 15
Town,	Watertown,	Sept. 22-25
We-tbrook,	Westbrook,	Oct. 8
Willimantic Fair Club,	Willimantic,	Sept. 30-Oct. 2
Windham Co.,	Brooklyn,	Sept. 23-25

IMPORTANT.

When you visit or leave New York City, save Baggage Expressage and Carriage Hire, and stop at the GRAND UNION HOTEL, opposite Grand Central Depot. 600 Elegant rooms, fitted up at a cost of one million dollars, reduced to $1 and upwards per day. European Plan. Elevator. Restaurant supplied with the best. Horse cars, stages and elevated railroad to all depots. Families can live better for less money at the Grand Union Hotel than at any other first-class hotel in the city.

TENNESSEE'S coal fields extend over an area of 5000 square miles in or contiguous to the Cumberland Mountains. The State also contains all varieties of iron ore except one, and the metallic area comprises nearly three-quarters of the State. Marble and zinc are also abundant.

WE call the attention of our readers to the Enterprise Meat Choppers advertised in our present issue. The demand for these Choppers has attained such immense proportions that the manufacturers have been compelled to largely increase their facilities for making them, and we are assured that they are now being turned out at the rate of 2,500 per week, 150 hands being steadily employed on them. There can be no doubt as to the excellence of these Choppers, as they have been tested by the editors of nearly 100 agricultural papers, who have given them a hearty endorsement. We cordially recommend them to all our subscribers as by far the best machine of the kind ever introduced to public favor.

OREGON is becoming a vigorous competitor in the fruit market, sending her products as far East as Chicago, and even shipping pears in large quantities to San Francisco, one cannery there the other day ordering 3000 boxes.

THE warmer weather often has a depressing and debilitating effect. Hood's Sarsaparilla overcomes all languor and lassitude.

A TERRIBLE drought prevailed in New South Wales the early part of the year, and the Sidney *Trade Review* of June 28, said the losses of sheep up to that date were from eight to ten millions.

"Man's work's from sun to sun;
Woman's work is never done."

Work is a necessity to all; but, upon how many, women especially, does it fall with the burden of the "last straw," and this, because their peculiarly delicate constitutions are so liable to functional derangement. We can not lessen your toil, ladies, but we can make it easier for you, by making you stronger and better able to do it. Dr. Pierce's "Favorite Prescription" will relieve you of nervous and other weaknesses, and all the many ills peculiar to your sex.

PRUNUS pissardi is a new plum from Persia, which as an ornamental shrub has a very pleasing appearance, both on account of the color of the foliage, the flowers, the fruit and the color of the bark, which is always of a shining red. The leaves are of imported. It has been introduced into Belgium, and will find its way to the United States in a few years.

WOULD YOU BELIEVE IT.—Nature's greatest remedy, Kidney-Wort, has cured many obstinate cases of piles. This most distressing malady generally arises from constipation and a bad condition of the bowels. Kidney-Wort acts at the same time as a cathartic and a healing tonic, removes the cause, cures the disease and promotes a healthy state of the affected organs. James F. Moyer, carriage manufacturer of Myerstown, Pa., testifies to the great healing powers of Kidney-Wort, having been cured by it of a very bad case of piles, which for years had refused to yield to any other remedy.

LOCUSTS have lately descended like a storm upon the central provinces of Spain, and in Ciudad Real every municipal district has been visited by the scourge. When on the wing the locusts obscure the sun like cloud, and in some places trains have been obliged to wait until the track was cleared. The winged pests leave hardly a green thing in the districts upon which they have swept down in force.

* * * * Delicate diseases of either sex, however induced, radically cured. Address, World's Dispensary Medical Association, Buffalo, N. Y.

A MILFORD man recently dug a quarter of an acre of land planted to potatoes and realized 101 bushels. The largest potato weighed two pounds and 11 oz of the largest tipped the scales at 60 pounds.

MESSRS. GURLER BROS., DeKalb, Ill., who make as fine Creamery butter as can be found in their State, heartily recommend Thatcher's Orange Butter Color.

THERE was almost a riot in 1855 when Castle Garden was first proposed as the landing place for immigrants, and since then 4,888,180 immigrants have landed there.

WHY do you suffer with Back Ache, Pain in the Chest, Rheumatism, or lameness anywhere when a *Hop Plaster* will surely give you relief? Druggists sell them. 25 cents.

THIRTEEN hundred and eight wolves were killed last year in France and the rewards paid by the French government amounted to about $20,000.

OZONE powder used in the sick-room, will purify the air and refresh the patient without the admission of fresh air.

LONDON has one kindly charity which is peculiar, perhaps, to that metropolis. At Regent's Park about 50,000 healthy, well-rooted plants are given away each autumn to poor applicants.

Young Men!—Read This.

THE VOLTAIC BELT CO., of Marshall, Mich., offer to send their celebrated ELECTRO-VOLTAIC BELT and other ELECTRIC APPLIANCES on trial for thirty days to men, young and old, afflicted with nervous debility, loss of vitality and manhood, and all kindred troubles. Also for rheumatism, neuralgia, paralysis, and many other diseases. Complete restoration to health, vigor, and manhood guaranteed. No risk is incurred as thirty days' trial is allowed. Write them at once for illustrated pamphlet free. 26teop4

SANTA Barbara, Cal., has a wonderful crop of plums and prunes this year. In some of the orchards the boughs are braced up to keep them from breaking, and so covered with fruit in some cases as to hide them from sight.

IMPURE BLOOD.—In morbid conditions of the blood are many diseases; such as saltrheum, ringworm, boils, carbuncles, sores, ulcers, and pimples. In this condition of the blood Dr. Pierce's GOLDEN VEGETINE and cure these affections. As a blood purifier it has no equal. Its effects are wonderful.

SHIPPER VS. COMMISSION DEALER.—The newspapers of to-day would not be complete unless they devoted space to the quotation of alleged current retail prices. It is well known, or at least should be, how utterly impossible it is to give exact prices of the very many qualities of a single product. This necessitates the leaving of large margins on all quotations, which will take in all grades from poorest to best; even then prices are quoted to reach the extra fancy grades. While this is right and proper, it should not be relied on in all cases, simply from the fact of some retailers being satisfied with quick sales and small profits, while with others it is the reverse.

Shippers when reading quotations of these prices should bear this in mind, and not be too hasty in condemning the commission men for allowing the profits to be given to retailers. They have enough to contend with without being harassed by shippers. The wholesale prices fluctuate continually, while retailers maintain, as it were, a standard price regardless of the wholesale ups and downs, unless they are extreme.—*Market Journal.*

☞ A HAPPY THOUGHT. Diamond Dyes are so perfect and so beautiful that it is a pleasure to use them. Equally good for dark or light colors. 10c at druggists. Wells, Richardson & Co., Burlington, Vt. Sample card, 32 colors, and book of directions for 2c stamp.

THE MILK PRODUCERS' MEETING.

The regular annual meeting of the New England Milk Producers' Association was held at Wesleyan Hall, Bromfield street, Tuesday morning. The assembly was composed of directors and delegates from the local auxiliary associations, and the object of the meeting was to fix the price of milk for the six months following Oct. 1. Vice-President W. H. Clark of Milford, N. H., called the meeting to order. In accordance with the usual custom, the delegates proceeded to write what, in their opinion, should be the price of milk per can delivered in Boston. Before doing so, however, Mr. S. R. Rice of Northboro desired to have the question settled as to whether the contractors were to take 10 cents per can between stations, or the amount fixed by the railroad commissioners. Secretary Smith said he did not see how the matter could be settled at this meeting. A delegate wanted to know the condition of the hay crop in New Hampshire and Massachusetts, and was answered by several delegates that the crop in most places was short compared with last year, in some localities the shortage amounting to from 33 to 50 per cent. It was charged by Mr. Waitle of Bedford that the contractors had not lived up to the agreement they made with the sellers, and he hoped the question would be settled then whether the farmers were to control the contractors, or vice versa. Mr. Baker of South Lincoln, president of the association, argued that, if the Springfield dealers can do business at 14 cents per quart, it can be done in Boston. The marking resulted as follows: Whole number of votes cast, 112; 6 voted for 48 cents, 9 voted for 47 cents, 3 for 46 cents, 16 for 45 cents, 12 for 44 cents, 28 for 43 cents, 27 for 42 cents, 1 for 41 cents, 13 for 40 cents. The average price was 43 cents.

Mr. Sampson of Bedford moved that 43 cents per can be the price paid for milk in Boston. Mr. Baker moved an amendment that the price be fixed at 42 cents.

Mr. Sampson advocated 44 cents, even if the producers have to come down a little. He reminded the delegates that, if they ask 43 cents, and finally come down to 42, it will greatly tickle the contractors, make them feel pretty good at the thought that they had beaten the producers down in their price, and at the same time the producers will be getting a good price.

The motion to fix the price at 43 cents was carried by a vote of 68 to 20, and it was then voted unanimously, on motion of Mr. Sampson, that the price be strictly adhered to.

A committee, consisting of Messrs. Baker of South Lincoln, French of North Andover, Gilmore of Westboro, Bartlett of Lee, and Tuttle of Concord, was appointed to notify the contractors of the action of the convention. The convention then adjourned till 1 o'clock.

The afternoon session was called to order by President Baker, who stated that during the coming winter, the farmers would have brought up before the Legislature the question of the adulteration of milk: he had heard that an attempt would be made to have the standard lowered so as to injure the producer and aid the dealer: it was, therefore, the duty of every farmer to see that men are nominated and then elected to the Legislature who will take care of the farmers' interests. He said that he had evidence in his possession showing that representatives and senators who were confidently expected to work for the benefit of the farmers did not do so. A delegate moved that a committee of one from each town be appointed who shall look after the interests of the milk producers in the several localities. The motion was passed in an amended form, to the effect that the secretary be instructed to appoint such a committee.

Mr. Baker then spoke of the dairy company. The milk producers have been contending with the milk dealers for a number of years, and have sometimes conquered and sometimes been defeated. The only way out of the difficulty was to show that the farmers could do without the dealers. The producers have been dissatisfied because pure milk was not delivered by the dealers, but now it looks as though the public could be sure of getting pure milk. This opens the opportunity for every honest man to supply pure milk to the consumers. The Springfield company has demonstrated that they can do the delivering business for 1¼ cents per quart, but the farmers have been paying more than this right along. The only remedy, therefore, is for the producers themselves to do the business of the dealers. The retail price of milk in Boston is 7 cents a quart; in Springfield it is 5 cents. At this point a committee from the contractors reported to the meeting, through their Chairman, Mr. Burns, that the contractors had unanimously settled upon 40 cents a can as the best price for all concerned; 43 cents they considered a disastrous price and could not understand on what arguments it was based; they felt satisfied that 40 cents would bring an amount of milk quite sufficient to meet the demand. Mr. Sampson wanted some contractor to explain how a producer could raise milk at 40 cents a can; he for one would like very much to know. Mr. Burns repeated in reply that the supply of milk at 40 cents would equal the demand, and that was a sufficient answer. Mr. Sampson asked for any one present who could raise milk at 40 cents to raise their hands. No one responded. He then asked for all who could not raise milk at that price to rise, and all stood up. Mr. Sampson then deprecated any yielding to the contractors' demand, saying that it was now time for the producers to straighten up their backbone, and make the dealers bend.

Mr. Bartlett declared that if the farmers could not have an advance in the price of milk over last year they were not going to make it; if they couldn't have their price, the supply of milk for Boston would be exceedingly short. Mr. Rowell, contractor, announced that if it was true that milk could not be produced for less than 43 cents, he would put his shoulder to the wheel and do the best he could under the circumstances; but he was inclined to let the law of supply and demand settle the price: the watering of milk, which once influenced this law, was now substantially done away with in Boston; the price of 40 cents last winter furnished the needed supply and for three months gave a tremendous surplus; all products are now selling at lower prices than last year; as to the claim that the price of milk would be raised one cent in the winter, not over three-fourths of the customers would be raised, because one-fourth were too poor to stand it. Here Mr. Sampson declared that that one-fourth would receive poorer milk in return for the lesser price. Mr. Whiting, contractor, substantiated Mr. Rowell's remarks. An hour's discussion followed, but no result was reached. Then the contractors retired and both sides held separate consultations. Mr. Rice of Sudbury thought that 43 cents was somewhat too high, but the producers took no action. The report came from the contractors that they had not decided what to do, whereat the motion was passed, five to one, that the price be fixed at 42 cents and no variation be made. Mr. Baker announced that if the contractors refused to accept this price, it would be necessary to call another meeting; the only way to be successful in this movement would be to stop every can of milk after October 1, if not taken at 42 cents, whether brought to the city by peddler or contractor; he did not want to be defeated again, and urged unanimous action. While Mr. Baker was speaking, the contractors left the building, without taking any further action. Shortly afterward the producers adjourned their meeting until Thursday, Sept. 25, at 10.30 A. M. in Wesleyan Hall, when they will decide what action to take with their milk.

FARMERS—TRY IT! Wells, Richardson & Co's. Improved Butter Color will be found to be the only oil color that will not become rancid. Test it and you will prove it. It will not color the butter-milk; it gives the brightest color of any made, and is the strongest and therefore the cheapest.

THE chestnut crop in the mountains of West Virginia will be an enormous one. This portends a severe winter.

A NATIONAL FORESTRY EXHIBITION.

One of the most interesting collections at the forthcoming World's Industrial and Cotton Centennial Exposition in New Orleans, will be the forestry exhibition of the United States Department of Agriculture. Specimens of native woods and forest growth from every part of Uncle Sam's broad domain, will be brought together here, as well as the same varieties grown in different sections. Mr. Wm. Saunders, the member of the Government Board representing the Agricultural Department, had at the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia—to which he was also the Department representative—a superb collection of American woods, gotten together at an expense of $12,000. The present collection will be no less interesting, as the vast collection of native woods in the rough, which will be shown, will be supplemented by another exhibit illustrating the many industries which manufacture in part or wholly from wood, that make a demand upon our timber supply. In some cases the whole story will be told by a series of specimens, as in lead pencil manufacture. There will be a small section of a Florida cedar log; the same cut into slabs; a slab cut into strips, and the strips planed and grooved as we see them in the finished pencil; lastly, a series of the many forms of pencil will be shown, not only in cedar, but in one or two other woods. Such an exhibit as this, accompanied by statistics, showing the enormous quantities of timber consumed by each industry, cannot but open the eyes of some people to the importance of the forestry question. Think of a million feet of pine lumber ground into matches in a single year, and by a single manufacturing company; or four million feet of birch turned into little wooden pill boxes, or pencil lead cases, in the same time, by another company. Then take into consideration the vast quantities of hard wood lumber worked into furniture, carriages and wagons, railroad cars, ships, or even casks and barrels. Such an exhibition as this should be made permanent, that the people may be educated, so to speak, to the importance of the forestry question.

THE GREAT EASTERN COMING.—A New Orleans despatch says that negotiations which have been pending for some time between the owners of the Great Eastern and the World's Exposition, are about closed. Captain Eads, Special Commissioner of the Exposition in London, has been conducting the matter. The management will announce the sailing of the Great Eastern for October 15th, bringing government and individual exhibits, free to the Exposition. The Commissioners report a large number of exhibits from the Expositions at Edinburgh, London, Cork, Manchester, Turin and Copenhagen, and applications for space at Exposition headquarters indicate that over 400,000 square feet of space will be needed for foreign exhibits alone. The Great Eastern carrying exhibits free, and landing them at Exposition wharf, where they will be received and moved into the buildings free, by the terminal force of the Exposition, removes the objections heretofore offered by many foreign exhibitors.

A QUIET agent, with only one mission to fulfill, came into the hands of Mr. Albert Chandler, of Crumpton, Queen Anne Co., Md. He gave it to his father-in-law, Mr. Goodwin, who was suffering with severe Rheumatism. After a trial he wrote: "It is having a wonderful effect in his case. He regards his possession of it as providential. His wonderful change has astonished the community." The remedy is ATHLOPHOROS, a natural antidote for the poison and acid in the blood, whose presence is the precursor and cause of Rheumatic and Neuralgic pains and inflammations.

The World Abroad.

SUMMARY OF LATEST FOREIGN DESPATCHES.

Great Britain.

Parliament has been convoked for the 23d of October, for the transaction of government business and for the discussion of the franchise bill. The ministerialists intend to curtail the debates, and expect to finish the session in four weeks. The Parnellites will move an inquiry into the Maamtrasna confessions, and also demand the recall of Earl Spencer, lord lieutenant of Ireland, and Mr. Trevelyan, chief secretary, and in the event of the refusal of the government to accede to their terms, will vote with the conservatives on the franchise bill.

The corporation of the city of Cork have quarreled with the Mayor for daring to invite the Duke of Edinburg to visit that city, claiming that such an invitation misrepresented the feelings of the citizens.

A National League demonstration took place at Galway on Sunday. Speeches were made by Messrs. Healy, O'Connor and others. Mr. O'Connor threatened an obstruction policy during the autumn session of Parliament, unless the demands of the Irish members with regard to the Maamtrasna case were granted.

France.

A Cabinet Council was held for the discussion of the Chinese question, the result of which was that Prime Minister Ferry telegraphed to Admiral Courbet to resume warlike operations at once. On Monday the government organ, *Le Paris*, published an article in which the idea that France should accept arbitration in her difficulty with China, is indignantly rejected. France, it says, is determined to settle her differences with China herself.

The cholera has so far ceased in Marseilles, that the publication of the daily bulletins has been discontinued, and people are returning to the city.

Italy.

Le Moniteur in Rome states that the meeting of the papal conclavy, which was to have been held on the 29th, has been postponed. The Italian government has offered the Vatican $12,000 as a reserve fund from the sales of the propaganda property. The Pope ignored the offer.

Consul General Wood at Rome, writes to the State Department relative to the spread of cholera in Italy as follows:

"In consequence of the quarantine, commercial intercourse with foreign countries is nearly suspended, while Sicily and Sardinia are cut off from the other parts of the Kingdom. Beside great loss to foreign commerce, it is estimated that about 400,000 persons will be prevented from visiting the country this season. The pecuniary loss to the country in general, is incalculable. Since the outbreak of cholera in several parts of the Kingdom, there has been much doubt expressed by the press, and by interested parties on the main land, as to the efficiency of the quarantine, but in Sicily public opinion is more than ever in favor of it, and it has there, as well as in other islands, been extended from ten to twenty-one days."

The ravages of the disease in Naples have been almost beyond belief, the number of deaths some days running up to over 500. The courage and self-forgetfulness of King Humbert, who has personally visited all the hospitals, and the most afflicted quarters of the city, and has left nothing undone in the way of providing relief for the suffering people, has done much to encourage the hearts of the populace, and to put a stop to the wild excesses in which, in their ignorance and fear, they were taking refuge. Physicians and hospitals are no longer mobbed, and the dangerous panic which was rapidly affecting all classes of society, has been measureably allayed.

The Egyptian War.

A fight has occurred near Suakim between 4300 of Osman Digna's rebel forces and 1000 friendly Arabs under Mahmoud. The latter lost his son and a number of his followers. It is feared that the friendly tribes will be driven to cast their fortunes with the rebels unless the government comes quickly to their assistance.

A man of the Gared tribe from Kordofan has come into the Egyptian lines, who states that General Gordon has taken two islands near Senaar, and that the sheikhs of Dengli have several times defeated the Mahdi. The Kamilab tribe report that all the sheikhs on the frontier of Abyssinia have joined the Mahdi.

The Chinese Troubles.

Advices from China state that the Chinese have no intention of blocking the Woo-sung River, on which Shanghai is situated, unless the French make an attack. Hundreds of stone-laden boats are to be sunk on the approach of the French fleet. It is believed that the neutral powers will seriously object to the closing of this river unless a formal declaration of war shall have been previously made. The French have established a coaling station at Matson.

General Items.

A meeting has taken place this week between the Emperors of Germany, Russia, and Austria at Count Henckel's castle near Kattowitz, in Prussian Silesia.

The Czar of Russia has pardoned 42 Nihilists who had been sentenced to Siberia, and has commuted the sentences of 73 others.

Advices from India report that the Indian crop prospects are improving. There has been a favorable rainfall in Bengal, but the drought still continues in Madras. In Mysore there have been serious floods.

Business Notices.

Humor in Stomach

Causes such sickness attributed to dyspepsia, chronic diarrhœa, etc. Hood's Sarsaparilla has cured numerous cases having all the peculiarities of these complaints. Other cures effected afford the best proof of the wonderful curative power of

HOOD'S SARSAPARILLA

which secures the confidence of the people. Made only by C. I. HOOD & Co., Lowell, Mass.

Marriages and Deaths.

MARRIED.

In Dorchester, Sept. 10, by Rev. S. P. Fay, George S. Lovejoy to Mary E. Dimond.

In Roxbury, Sept. 10, by Rev. C. H. Wheeler, Percival Wayland White of Winchendon and Edith Frazar Wheeler of Roxbury.

In Cambridge, Sept. 9, by Rev. Charles F. Thwing, assisted by Pres't Butterfield of Olivet College, Mich., Prof. Charles H. Johnson of New Britain, Conn., to Miss Laura Martin of Cambridge.

In Beverly, Sept. 11, by Rev. D. P. Morgan, Mr. Frank L. Whipple to Miss Henrietta Symmes, both of Beverly.

In East Medway, Sept. 8, by Rev. E. O. Jameson, assisted by Rev. L. R. Eastman of Framingham, Mr. John M. Crane to Miss Caroline Cogswell, both of Medway.

In Westford, Vt., Sept. 3, by Rev. B. S. Adams, Thomas B. Tyler to Miss Hattie A. Bates, all of Westford.

DIED.

In Charlestown, Sept. 7, Charles Lang, 70 yrs. 3 mos.
In Brookline, Sept. 8, Mrs. Mary Flower Sack, widow of the late Lewis Sack, 71 yrs.
In West Somerville, Sept. 7, Mrs. Eliza F. Rand, widow of the late Gilman Rand, 70 yrs.
In Newburyport, Sept. 5, John H. Page, 72 yrs.
In Newburyport, Sept. 8, Miss Mary Ann Chamberlain, 70 yrs.
In Newburyport, Sept. 5, John H. Page, 72 yrs.
In Woburn, Sept. 7, Mrs. Sally R., wife of S. K. Parker, 80 yrs. 4 mos.
In Arlington, Sept. 5, Mrs. Jerusha Palmer Little, 93 yrs. 2 mos.
In Plymouth, Sept. 12, Rev. George Nelson Thomas, 77 yrs. 3 mos.
In Stoneham, Sept. 10, Sally, widow of the late Capt. Joseph Buck, 85 years, 8 mos.
In Marblehead, Sept. 11, Mary S., widow of the late Samuel Whitcomb, 87 yrs. 1 mo.
In South Attleboro, Sept. 9, Chloe T., daughter of the late Ebenezer Draper, 76 yrs.
In Waltham, Sept. 10, Abiel H. Fillebrown, 92 yrs. 4 mos.
In Wakefield, Sept. 11, Henrietta Burt, wife of John F. Hartshorne, 72 yrs. 11 mos.
In Brunswick, Me., Sept. 8, Mrs. Harriet F. Cutler, 82 yrs. 11 mos.
In Brewer, Me., Sept. 13, Miss Helen A. Clark, 78 yrs.

☞ *Persons ordering articles advertised in our columns, will please say that they saw the advertisement in the NEW ENGLAND FARMER.*

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Poetry.

THE BELL-RINGER AND THE ANGELS.

BY ERNEST W. SHURTLEFF.

The aged bellman climbed his lonely tower,
Where cooed the doves, each to his gentle mate.
Day's rosy footprints faded with the hour,
And shadows gathered at the chapel gate.

The years had crowned with white the old man's brow,
And from his life his dearest joys had flown,
The friends his heart had cheered were dead, and now
Of all his kindred he was left alone.

His mellow bell the death of evening tolled
O'er listening wood and glen the music rung;
Then night's blue gates were sealed with stars of gold,
And beauty watched in heaven with silent tongue.

Soon, like a spirit of the quiet hour,
From eastern dreams the smiling moon arose,
And through the lonely chapel's fretted tower
The slanting beams streamed in like silver snows.

The bellman tarried, gazing on the night;
He thought of all his kindred gone to rest,
He longed to view them in their glory bright,
And clasp again his children to his breast.

He thought of Easter's risen Lord. He thought
Of Mary weeping at her Master's feet,
And from his lips the prayer his mother taught
Fell like an echo of his childhood sweet.

When lo! two angels, clad in beauty rare,
Beside him stood, more bright than song can tell.
Pure thoughts of God hadmade their features fair,
And blessings from their lips like music fell.

The wondering bellman raised his trembling hand
To shield his eyes, with glory dimmed and dazed.
"Oh, speak!" he cried, "from what celestial land
Have ye descended?" Spelled with joy he gazed

Upon their shining brows, their gentle eyes;
And as their quiet answer charmed his ear,
He felt his joyous soul within him rise,
Glad as a bird that feels its freedom near.

"We are the angels Life and Death," they sung,
"Choose thou between us, which shall be thy guide!"
Dumb for a moment was the bellman's tongue,
Then, with a sudden thrill of joy, he cried:

"What! Life and Death? I thought that Death was dread!
I thought he came with sorrow in his breath—
But lo! ye both so mild, so bright appear,
I know not which is Life or which is Death!"

Then forth he stretched his trembling arm, and took
The nearer angel's shining garment hem;
For in its eyes he saw a gentle look
That minded him of Christ of Bethlehem.

The angel smiled, and he the smile returned.
"Art thou not Life?" he asked, with eager breath.
"Not so," the angel spake; "yet thou hast earned
Through me immortal joys; lo! I am Death!"

Night hurried on. The stars of morning gray
Grew dim; and in the East pale colors played.
The bellman's spirit then had passed away
To wear the crown his life on earth had made.

And this is dying—that which man calls Death,
Not as a dark and fearful shadow comes
It is an angel mild, with loving breath,
That does God's gentle bidding in our homes.

The Story Teller.

From the Springfield Republican.

JOHN DEMPSTER'S DAUGHTER.

BY MRS. CHRISTINE SEEGER.

Delight Dempster was but twelve years old, yet she had learned what many older people never know—how to wait.

So, though the potatoes, which came plump and appetizing from the oven an hour before lay lukewarm and shriveled upon the hearth, and the toast had dried to a crisp, she sat patiently mending a sock for Tim—sleepy Tim, who had eaten his supper long ago, and been tucked into bed—and waiting for the door of the workshop to open, and her father to appear. This shop had once been the woodhouse, and opened directly out of the kitchen; but the potatoes often grew cold before John Dempster remembered to leave the model of the engine he had invented, and go and eat them.

It was not half so bad, Delight reasoned, when there was nothing but potatoes, as when a bit of meat lost its juiciness and flavor through long delay; and after all it was not ordinary, trivial waiting, such as the milkman's tardiness might occasion, or any unruly shoe-string of Tim's—but what that lent an atmosphere of importance to the poor little house, and even to Delight herself, who believed that great things were some day coming as the direct result of it. She gloried in the fact that the baker's wife, whenever she entered the house, was filled with a tremulous apprehension lest "that en-jine" should blow up; and a red flush of pride would stain her cheeks whenever she heard herself characterized, as she sometimes did, as

"Light Dempster, the child of that crazy inventor."

"Some day," she would say to herself, with unquestioning faith, "they will not call him crazy."

A strange mixture of fear and expectation throbbed through her veins every night when the latch clicked on the door of the little shop—fear lest her lifted eyes might read the old story of futile struggle and failure—expectation of a better day. Even the lagging step that approached the door from the other side, had become the forerunner of tidings to be read in the tired face, and the brave little heart would brace itself to meet discouragement with extra cheerfulness. How the strain wore upon the child, no one knew. Her father called her confidently:

"Light—light o' the house," his "little housekeeper," unaware in his self absorption of the burden he was putting upon her young shoulders.

John Dempster had no "faculty," the neighbors said, among themselves; he was always putterin', and that it was hard for a child like Delight to plan and work for three; but then she was strong and old—"old for her years"—and she loved the little brown house where her mother had died, and believed in her father's dreams of future riches and splendor, without realizing the changes they implied.

All the same, whatever might be in store, there was Tim's interminable stocking. It had been darned so many times that but little of the original texture remained, and she wondered, as she worked, how much longer it could be made to last—if they would be rich in time to get him new ones for Christmas.

The kettle was humming wearily upon the stove. There was a subdued hiss, hiss, from the little workshop, that had a drowsy effect upon her as she listened.

"Father," she said, rousing herself and going to the door; "Father, ain't you coming to supper?" She noticed, as he turned toward her, that he trembled with excitement. There was a crimson spot on either cheek, and his eyes glowed like stars.

"It's all right, all right at last!" he cried; "not a flaw, not a hitch. I knew it must be so—my beautiful engine! Wake up, Tim!" he called; "come and see how well she does her work. My pet! My beauty!" and he caressed the shining metal as lovingly as a mother would her child.

"Has it not been worth while," he continued, walking back and forth excitedly, "all the years of struggle and denial, to succeed at last? Now, my little Delight, you shall ride in your carriage, wear silks and diamonds every day—and you, Tim—you can go to college."

Tim, who appeared, but half dressed and half awake, in obedience to a warning glance from his sister, suppressed a very scornful "Humph!" The engine that she regarded with such reverent eyes, was to him the demon that had devoured their substance ever since he could remember; that had compelled him often and often to go supperless to bed, and to walk barefooted in cold weather.

"I don't care," he insisted in a stubborn undertone, "I have seen one just like it. I have "

"Timothy Dempster!"

"I have, too; when I went with Jim White to visit his grandfather. There was just such a queer thing that fizzed up and down, and another one that whopped 'round——"

"Timothy Dempster, go directly to bed!" said Delight, indignantly—an order which he was only too willing to obey.

In her loyal heart there was no shadow of doubt; her intense faith and unflagging interest had been to her father a constant source of inspiration. It had been otherwise in the days of the pale-faced mother, who had built hopes upon one invention after another, only to see them go down in failure. They had condemned her children to grinding poverty, and sapped her own strength, until one day she laid her tired hands together, and never lifted them to work or pray again. Her long continued sadness had had a depressing, even paralyzing effect upon her husband during her life, but after she ceased to move among them, and the yellow-haired, bright-faced daughter, young, and strong, and courageous, stepped into her place, he became possessed with the idea of an atonement that was to be effected by his ultimate success. With the fatal egotism of a dreamer, he said to himself daily:

"When I succeed, when my engine is complete, and I can give the children everything she desired for them, she will forgive me, and be glad of the old, hard years."

And while he dreamed, he worked, earning something each day, and spending all but the barest pittance upon his invention. Day by day the house grew shabbier. The deft and dainty fingers of the little housekeeper toiled harder to keep not only body and soul together, but things looking neat and tasteful as in her mother's time. Morning glories were trained to screen the windows in summer, that the white cotton curtains, with their old-fashioned trimming of knitted lace, might be laid by to last another winter. That she shared her father's dreams of future magnificence did not prevent the daily recurrence of practical shifts like this.

At length patience had had her perfect work; the idea that had filled her father's brain for years, had taken tangible shape and was before them.

"Did it cost a very great deal, father?" Delight asked, looking at the little model devoutly.

"A great deal, child—it has cost the roof over our heads. But what does that matter? We shall move into a finer house than this, soon."

"I shall be sorry, father, to go away; mother always seems to be here," and she stroked with a loving hand the arm of the chair where her mother used to sit.

"I wish your mother could have lived to see it," he said, hastily. "She never thought it would come to anything, and wanted me to give it up. She wanted you to have prettier dresses, like the other children that lived about here, and once she cried when Tim was little and sickly, and I could not buy him a baby wagon. I was at work on a valve, then, but I never succeeded in getting in just right."

"I think mother did not want to be very rich," said the child, wisely; "she only wanted enough."

"We shall have more than enough, now. You shall have a piano, and wear silk every day, and Tim shall go to college," he reiterated, going back to the thought that seemed uppermost. "I always meant that he should go——" and so he wandered on. His castles were fair and of goodly shape and proportion, and he took unwonted pleasure in building them.

The kettle ceased its song, and the fire died out unobserved, before the two parted for the night. But John Dempster could not sleep. He wandered about the house like an uneasy ghost, waking Delight from her first delicious nap, to tell her that he must go up to the city in the morning to see about applying for a patent.

"I cannot be too soon," he said; "for some one might steal my invention and go before me."

After a meagre breakfast the next morning, Delight said, with more courage than she usually showed in stating the emptiness of the larder:

"The flour is gone, father; I used the last this morning, and the milkman wants the money now for every quart."

"Well, well, my dear," he cried, impatiently pulling on his coat at the same time; "here is a dollar, have a nice little supper ready for me when I get home, for I shall be cold and tired."

He did not add that he had given her nearly all his store; he only said, lightly, turning back a moment at the door, that he should walk home—it was not far—he was good for fifteen miles—he should come on the railroad track—it was shorter; and if Tim could watch the supper, she might walk a little way and meet him.

It was not until she had watched him well on his way to the station, Tim trudging by his side, that she wondered if he had left himself money enough to buy a bit of dinner at noon. And she tried to call Tim back, but he did not hear. Tim had been up in good season that morning, enjoying the unusual bustle of departure, and running about on the various errands the occasion demanded, and finally escorting his father with proud satisfaction to the very steps of the car. After all, the new invention must be a big thing, and he told all the other boys that his father had gone to the city to get a "pattern," and gave occasional glowing accounts of the way the little engine over there in the shop could make the steam fly, and the probable millions that would accrue to the family because of it. It was not often that Tim got a chance to boast, and he did not fail to improve his opportunities.

It was nearly noon before John Dempster could get the ear of the great patent lawyer whom he had come to see. He waited patiently in the outer office, a pathetic figure in the thread-bare coat, with sunken eyes, and lines about his mouth that told of patience long-tried, and hope deferred; a gentle, shy man, who had staked everything upon the one great venture of his life.

"I wish," he said, when his turn had come, to apply for a patent for an engine I have invented. It cannot fail to be a success. There is such a saving of steam——"

"Tell me about it," interrupted the lawyer.

With great simplicity, and much unconscious eloquence, Dempster explained its workings. Any one who had seen his trembling hands, or watched the fire in his eye, would have understood how the idea of it had been bound up in his heart and life.

The successful lawyer heard him carefully to the end. Then he left his chair and walked to the window and back again. It was not easy to stab a man so frail as this one, who looked at you with such confident eyes.

"I am very sorry," he began: "it was a strong thought for a man like you to work out, but an engine similar, just the same, in fact, in all essential particulars, was patented a year ago."

He was a long time saying it, but the man who listened was longer in realizing the full force of the words.

"Do you mean," he stammered, wiping the great beads of perspiration from his forehead, "that some one has been before me, that all my work is to go for nothing? Why, I have mortgaged my house—it was for the children——" he continued brokenly, for the moment, and then paused, realizing in a dull way the absolute uselessness of any further words.

It was all over—the glory of the long dream—the fine dresses, the carriage, the piano for Delight, the college education for Tim, had vanished into thin air. His face, as he turned toward the door, was as the face of the dead. He moved like a man abandoned to despair. The great lawyer, moved to pity, put his hand on his shoulder. The distance was very wide between his palpable success and this man's abject failure. But the touch of human nature which makes the whole world kin, moved him to say:

"This must be a great disappointment to you, my friend; the same thing often happens; invention is a poor business. We lawyers get rich out of it; sometimes a manufacturer does; the inventor almost never. If you had brain enough to think this thing out, and skill enough to put your model together, you can turn your brain and skill into money faster by steady, daily work." It was good advice, and well meant, but it fell on deaf ears.

Slowly, like a man beset with a nightmare, John Dempster descended the stairs—strangely enough he counted them as he went down, and he never forgot the number.

For a time he wandered up and down the streets, unconscious of hunger, unconscious of a keen wind that was blowing from the north, and of a sky dark with threatenings of storm. He only knew that he was tired, incurably tired, it seemed—and he had told Delight that he should—walk—home.

His thoughts came slowly. It was some time before he could decide in what direction home lay. Then he turned his steps thither, his thoughts taking more vivid shape as he went on. Strange visions came between him and the crowd of homeward hurrying people that jostled him as he passed. The picture that had been before his eyes on the train of Delight richly clothed and radiant, her yellow hair shining in the sun and her cheeks aglow with health, had faded; in its place a slight appealing figure and a wan face from which the light and glow had fled, receded even as he approached.

"I could not help it," he would mutter deprecatingly; "I could not help it; I meant it for the best."

Once a cry rang out on the air—a child's cry, as it stumbled and fell. John Dempster started as if he had been struck. "It's Tim," he whispered to himself, "crying for shoes, or is it for bread? Forgive me, forgive me Tim—I did not mean to be selfish."

The air grew steadily colder; the few snow flakes that had been floating idly here and there, as if in doubt whether to fall or not, had multiplied until the air was dense with them. He left the city now, and was trudging wearily along the country road. After a time the road crossed the railroad track and a crowded train came rushing along. There was a glitter of lights before his eyes, glimpses of bright faces—the echo of a laugh as it rushed by. It was the train that he should have taken, but he had given the money to Delight to buy their supper. For a minute a sharp sense of hunger overcame him. He fancied he could see the little table spread and smell the baked potatoes. He staggered for a few steps, then recovered himself and went on. He wondered that he had ever longed for anything finer or better than the little home that seemed so far away. Blindly he struggled to retain his footing, and turning he followed the last retreating train. Colder the air grew and colder. The snow had changed to sleet that cut his face as it fell. And now and then his uncertain feet slipped upon the treacherous ties, and he would almost fall. So he struggled on. The night had fallen and the storm at intervals subsided, when a pale moon would send its feeble rays through the clouds and light faintly enough the path outlined by the iron track.

More than once his heart sunk within him and a mighty temptation rose like a fiend in his path and said to him: "Why face the jeering neighbors and the hungry children? Why not lie down in the whirling drift, and sleep?" Well he knew that on such a bitter night he should never wake again. But in the distance he seemed each time to see the long bright hair of a child blown by the wind, and blue eyes full of a trust that even his crushed and beaten manhood could not betray. Once even, near the railroad bridge, he thought he heard her voice piercing the night and storm: "Father, father!" and the wind swept by in a wilder gust, and he did not hear it again. The bridge was about a mile from home. Dangerous as the crossing was on such a night, its nearness brought a little revival of courage as he struggled toward it.

Delight meanwhile, in the little kitchen at home, had busied herself all day. As night drew near she heaped extra wood upon the fire, drew the supper table nearer, and bidding Tim see that the supper did not burn, put on hood and cloak, drew a pair of old stockings over her shoes to prevent her feet from slipping in the snow, and set out to meet her father. She walked rapidly through the village street, her fresh young blood coursing through her veins and defying at every breath the cold and storm. She turned soon upon the track, and wondered a little that she failed to see her father's tall figure in the distance; but "I shall meet him soon," she thought, and pushed on.

The shadows gathered grey and dense about her, the flakes cut sharply against her cheek; she strained her eyes anxiously and in vain into the distance. She was not a timid child, but the isolation of the night and the storm became oppressive. It never occured to her to turn back. Had not her father told her to come and meet him?

Presently the heavy framework of the long bridge loomed dark and weird before her; the only pathway was two planks close together running between the iron rails. She hesitated before stepping upon them. Would it not be better to wait here until he come? She looked about for some sheltered place. The wind as she paused seemed to chill the blood in her veins. There was a momentary lull; the clouds parting let the moon shine through and showed her a stooping figure, storm-beaten and bent, staggering with uncertain steps along the slippery and narrow pathway. Now and then he stumbled, seemed to lose his footing, fall, recover himself and struggle on. Delight's heart grew sick within her. She could not doubt that it was her father and that, dizzy and exhausted, a single misstep would plunge him 40 feet to the frozen surface of the river below. Then a great fear grew upon her—what if the southern bound train coming up behind him should find him unable to see or know?

She covered her eyes for a moment with her hands. When she uncovered them she saw instead of a slowly moving figure, a motionless heap lying half upon the planks, half upon one of the timbers of the bridge. She no longer hesitated, with feet swift and sure—fear lent them wings—she ran to his side. Unconscious for a time of cold or storm, with a strength born of desperation, she seized the unconscious man by the arms close to the shoulders and began to pull. For a moment she thought her strength would not be equal to the task, but another more determined effort and she found herself walking backwards over the slippery planking whose thin coating of sleet was at once a help and a danger—without it her own foothold would have been more secure, but save for that it would have been impossible for her to have dragged such a weight after her. She walked unknowingly of danger, her mind possessed by one idea. When she neared the end of the bridge, suddenly, sharply upon her ear rang the shrill whistle of a locomotive, followed by the dull thunder of the train as it rumbled upon the bridge.

With clinched teeth and face white as the dead the brave child redoubled her exertions; every heart beat was a prayer, no thought of saving herself and leaving her father to destruction. "O God in heaven," she said dumbly, "help me to save him."

Nearer and nearer came the train; nearer and nearer she drew her burden to the end of the bridge—a step more—and yet another—and they would be safe. She could almost feel the hot breath of the engine upon her face; she did not know that the engineer at his post was trying with might and main to do his part. What she did know was that a moment later the iron wheels ground slowly over the place where her father's body had been, but was not now—she had saved him!

Saved! and there were flashing lights, and voices, and soon a great crowd about her, and then she knew nothing more until she found herself in a warm car—and some kind people were rubbing her hands and calling her a heroine and a great deal more that she did not understand.

Then oblivion again—until the familiar face of the banker's wife, motherly and kind, bent over her as she lay in her own bed at home and her father, looking haggard and pale, but quite himself, came in to see how she was. Tim was there too, affectionate and obstreperous as ever, with a great deal of information to communicate—how they had been taken upon the train and some gentleman that knew their father had helped them off at their own station and brought them home.

"And we are not going to be rich, after all—at least, not very rich, and I, for one, am glad of it," said this practical-minded youth. "I am sick of waiting for things that don't come, and I think it would be nicer to have things a little like other folks right along; and father says he isn't going to invent any more, but just make us comfortable."

Some tears, grateful and regretful at once, came into Delight's eyes, and she turned her face to the wall to hide them. She was glad that the bitterness of the struggle for daily bread was to be lessened in any degree, but she realized as no one else did, how intense must have been the disappointment that followed the downfall of her father's hopes.

"You needn't cry," said Tim: "some people on the cars gave you a lot of money for your very own, so I suppose *you* can go to college if you want to," (with a magnanimous sigh).

Delight laughed in a happy, wise way, as if she knew of a better use for it than that.

And so we leave her—a good deal of a heroine among the village people for a year or two, unspoiled and unselfish through it all, and finding life sweet and pleasant in spite of the poverty which followed her all her life.

General Miscellany.

CANNED GOODS.

The practice of using fruits and vegetables that have been put up in hermetically sealed cans is not unattended with danger. The business of putting up goods in this form, and the amount sold, has become so extensive as to necessitate great care in the selection of brands. So many cases of sickness have been traced to this cause, that it is of great moment that the best articles only shall be used.

A physician lately published a paper in the *Sanitarian*, in which he says that in his practice he has had six cases of corrosive poisoning from canned tomatoes. In one of the cases to which this physican alludes, a whole family were poisoned from eating canned tomatoes which were not spoiled, or taken from what is technically known to the trade as a "swell," that is, in which decomposition of the contents forms a gas which causes the top to bulge out. These "swells" are bought up by unscrupulous dealers and "reprocessed," that is, a second hole is punched in the can to let the gas escape, and the top to assume its concave form again. But the cans thus treated betray themselves by showing two solder holes instead of one. The tomatoes used by this family were not taken from such a can, for, if they had been fermented, cooking would have rendered them harmless. The doctor found that the tomatoes had not stood in the vessel used, and that they were cooked in a stone crock, and a new tripleplated spoon had been used. The symptoms of the patients resembled those of verdigris poisoning, and, as canning establishments are known to use copper kettles, it seemed probable that this was the cause of the sickness. But then, if verdigris had been the cause, the tomatoes would have assumed a greenish appearance, while those used in this case were of a pale pink color. It was noticed that the tin of the can was corroded from the head of the can around the cap on the inside. One of these was taken to a tinsmith, who showed that the cap was not fastened to the head of the can by a resin amalgam as the sides were, but that the amalgam was made of muriate of zinc; that is, pieces of zinc were placed in muriatic acid and dissolved, and more zinc put in until the acid would no longer attack it. This solution was painted into the groove of the head of the can. The cap was then placed on and held with a clamp, and the soldering iron passed around. The iron being heated very hot, the solder held the acid in. It could not escape on the outside of the can, and if there happened to be too much acid applied to the groove, then, as the tin expanded with the heat, it would be forced into the can. This gave an explanation of the case. The poison was a muriate of zinc and tin, the acid around the cap having eaten off the tin from the inside of the can. The inside and the bottom of the can, where resin amalgam was used, were bright, also the edges. The contrast between these joints and that of the cap was so marked that there could be no doubt of this poison. It was double poison—muriate of zinc and muriate of tin—and this had become dissolved in the liquid portion of the tomatoes. It has an irritant, caustic and astringent action, and in extreme doses convulsions and sometimes paralysis occur. Like most other minerals, it may, when constantly taken in small doses, be retained until serious symptoms appear. Of course the consumption of a single can is not likely to be followed by fatal results, but constant use of food of this character will have its effects sooner or later.

Here are a few rules for guidance in case the housekeeper is unable to can or preserve for herself.

1—Every cap should be examined, and if two holes are found in it, it is "reprocessed" and is unfit for use.

2—Standard or first-class goods have not only the name of the factory, but also that of the wholesale house that sells them, on the label. "Seconds," or reprocessed goods, have a stock label of some mythical canning house, but do not have the name of any wholesale grocer on them. Reject all goods that do not have the name of the factory and also the names of some wholesale firms on the label.

3—A "swell" or decomposing can of goods can always be detected by pressing in the bottom of the can. A sound can, pressed, will give a solid feeling. When gas from decomposition is present the tin will rattle by the bottom being pressed, as you displace the gas in the can.

4—Reject any can that shows any rust around the cap on the inside of the head of the can.

If housekeepers will attend to these rules there will be less sickness from using unwholesome canned goods that many times is attributed to other causes.—*Providence Star.*

UNINTERPRETED.

BY JAMES WHITCOMB RILEY.

Supinely we lie in the grove's shady greenery,
Gazing, all dreamy-eyed, up through the trees;
And as to the sight is the heavenly scenery,
So to the hearing the sigh of the breeze—

We catch but faint rifts of the blue through the wavering
Boughs of the maples; and, like undefined,
The whispers and lisps of the leaves, faint and quaver-ing,
Meaningless falter and fall on the mind.

The vine, with its beauty of blossom, goes rioting
Up by the casement, as sweet to the eye
As the trill of the robin is restful and quieting
Heard in a drowse with the dawn in the sky.

And yet we yearn on to learn more of the mystery—
We see and we hear, but forever remain
Mute, blinded and deaf to the ultimate history
Born of a rose, or a patter of rain.

Could I but delve out the deeper sublimity
Hid in the lily that smiles as I write—
Ah! my good friends, how in glad unanimity
You should read rhymes writ in fragrance and white!

Or, could I translate the sweet song of merriment
Spilled from the wicker cage hung in the hall,
How you should chuckle to hear what canary meant
By his wild tangles of twitter and call!

SHOOTING THE RUFFED GROUSE.

This bird, on being flushed, flies with great ease and rapidity, in a direct line, almost. This helps the sportsman to mark it down, if he has missed it on the first flush. If a tree is near the line of flight, that tree will be sure to stand between the gun and the bird, and many is the time the tree gets the charge instead of the bird. It is only when they are alarmed that they leave their hiding-place with the rush and roar peculiar to them. They often get up silently; in fact, it is their habit to do so, unless disturbed.

They are naturally a solitary bird, and not often found in packs, though if a good feeding place is found, many birds will resort to it at a time, and there may be found as many as a dozen together. Under such circumstances a number may be brought to bag by a good shot, shooting as they break cover singly or in pairs. They love, however, to be alone, or, at certain seasons, in pairs; the most secluded and dense part of the forest is their home. These birds may be seen at the peep of day, walking around, picking here and there, and later, busy dusting themselves and scratching for food.

They are a gallinaceous bird, and act in many ways like our domestic fowls. They are fond of grain and berries of all kinds. In winter and spring they feed upon the buds of fruit trees, often coming within a few yards of the farmers' buildings when pressed for food. In very severe weather, and when the snow is deep and food scarce, they will eat the leaves of the laurel. This is supposed to poison the flesh of the bird to that extent as to make it dangerous as food for man.

The writer once shot one that was found feeding on laurel leaves. The bird was carefully broiled, and a small portion of it eaten. Though the flesh tasted slightly bitter, no evil results followed. Possibly, had a larger quantity of the flesh been eaten, the result might have been different.

The bird has the habit of making two distinct flights before going to roost for the night. The first flight is usually longer than the second. They roost on the ground and in trees.

In winter they may be found roosting in the naked branches of trees, and so completely do they counterfeit a large knot or stub, that it takes a sharp and practised eye to make them out.

The old man o' the woods once said:

"Do you see that grouse away up near the crotch of that gum tree?"

I looked in vain for a bird, and could only make out a stub or irregular protuberance, natural to the growth of the tree.

"No, I cannot see anything but a stub, or knot."

"Well, now I'll show you," said my companion, and, suiting the action to the word, threw his gun quickly to his face, not pausing in his slow walk, fired, and the knot spread out and tumbled down, a fine cock grouse. Had we stopped to critically examine the bird on his perch, that instant he would probably have flown. It appears the birds must think they are unnoticed, if, when suddenly come upon, the intruder walks right on.

In studying the habits of this bird, I was once sitting, well-screened, observing a bird that had just flown to the branches of a tree near by. It had alighted on a large limb twenty feet from the ground, and, after walking outward, then inward, craning its neck, and looking very sharp all around, finally settled for the night, and resolved itself into a part of the tree, so far as appearances were concerned.

I took my eyes from the spot for a number of minutes, then again turned them to the spot, and so completely was I deceived, I could scarcely make up my mind the bird was there, and not an irregular, broken stub of a branch. Slowly bringing up the field glass, I saw the feathers all gathered in, the body close to the limb, and the head evidently tucked under the wing comfortably for the night Sitting quietly for ten or fifteen minutes longer, until the shadows began to deepen, and the woods put on the sombre mantle of night, I made a slight noise. Instantly the bird straightened up stiff, and sat immovable and watchful. I then said, distinctly, "Good evening," and that instant I was left alone.

There is nothing that so alarms game, as the human voice. The deer may jump at the crack of a stick, and face you, but speak, and he rushes through the forest terror-stricken. Men have sent dangerous game fleeing, by calling loudly. — *Pittsburgh Chronicle-Telegraph.*

STUDYING LAW IN ENGLAND.

A very Different Course from that of the Harvard Law School.

Perhaps some of your readers may be interested to hear how they study for the law in England—a very different thing from the three years we spend in the Harvard Law School at home. The law school in London is situated in the Temple and the other inns of court, as they are called. These inns are four in number—the Inner Temple, the Middle Temple, Lincoln's Inn and Gray's Inn. By far the most famous of these are the Inner and Middle Temple, in Fleet street, not far from Chancery lane. The Temple as it is called, belongs to the corporations of the Inner and Middle Temple together, and originally consisted of three parts—the Inner and Outer Temple and the Middle Temple, between the two; but the other temple was taken down long ago, leaving the names of the other two. The title of 'Temple' is derived from the fact that it was originally a lodge of the Knights Templar, a military order founded in Jerusalem in the twelfth century, at the time of the crusades, to protect the holy sepulchre from violence, and called "Templars" because belonging to the temple of Solomon. When this order dissolved, in 1313, the temple became the property of the crown, and, after passing through several hands, was finally leased, in the same century, as a school of law, and a school of law it has remained for over four centuries. And in this long process of time it has accumulated enormous revenues, and is now a very wealthy organization. These inns of court are very delightfully situated in the city. In the midst of the bustle and turmoil of the principal streets, crowded with every sort of vehicle, and almost impassable for wayfarers on foot, one turns on a little courtway on one side and finds himself in the middle of quiet courtyards, surrounded by old buildings, and very likely containing a little garden and a few trees in the centre. These quiet places are the inns of court, and in these buildings live the barristers. A more delightful spot cannot be imagined. Everything is peaceful, and even the trees are covered with the mustiness of the law.

In the old rooms, generation after generation has poured over the same books, and burned the midnight oil in their efforts to add new precedents to the accumulated mass. The government is in the hands of the older members, who are called the "benchers." The Temple Church is situated in the inner temple, but is owned by the two corporations in common. It consists of two parts, the Round Church and the choir. After descending a few steps the Round Church is entered, built in the twelfth century by the templars, but still containing figures of the knights on the floor. There are nine figures in all, each lying on the ground in full armor and with hands crossed in the attitude of prayer. One of them is the brother-in-law of King John, and another is said to be the figure of the first baron of England. We ascend a little winding flight of stone steps to the triforium, which contains various tablets to the various members of the temple, once great lawyers in their own time, but now passed away and forgotten, leaving only their names in the white marble of the tablets behind them.

In the Round Church the lawyers used to sit, centuries ago, and wait for their clients—a much pleasanter place for young lawyers to wait than in their offices, as the modern custom is. Each lawyer had his accustomed stall, just like our modern market, and there transacted his business with his clients, if he had any. Beyond the Round Church is the choir, built about a century later, which is used now by the members of the temple as their private church, and is only open for service to them and their families. On one side sit the members of the Inner temple, and on the other the Middle temple. The judges, barristers and students have each their own pews assigned to them. On the floor, in mosaic work, the heraldic emblem of the old templars, Agnus Dei, a lamb and a cross, frequently occurs, as well as the winged horse of St. George, the emblem of the inner temple. Near the church is the dining-hall, where the members dine together during term time, and in connection with this dining-room one of the most enrious of the many customs takes place. There are four terms a year, each lasting about a month, and in this hall dinner is served every year. A barrister who has been "called" or admitted to the bar can dine here by paying three shillings, and a very good dinner he gets, judging from the bill of fare, including wine, as the custodian took great pains to inform us. Every student of the law is obliged to dine here three times in every term, for the space of three years, which amounts to thirty-six dinners in all. In addition, he has to pass stated examinations as with us; but even if he passes and does not dine he cannot be called to the bar. So every student must come up to London three times a term from Oxford, or wherever he is studying, and attend dinner in his robes. If he is late, the dinner does not count for him, and if he takes his robe off in the dining-hall, or comes in without a robe, his dinner is not counted.—*Transcript.*

A THOUSAND ISLAND FISH STORY.

"About two years ago," said the guide—"and it makes me laugh every time I think of it—I had a young gentleman from Philadelphia up a-fishin'. He'd never fished in fresh water afore, and to say he was green was a-puttin' it low. However, he hired me for a week and at it we went. We had tol'able good luck at bass, but he was wild for a muskalonge, and he says: 'Bill, if I catch one of them fellers you'll find a ten-dollar note for yourself right inside the gill-cover.' Well, he was a bass-fishin' down along Chimbly island one evenin', and started home with three spoons out and jest a-gittin' over the pickerel grounds above here, when there came a yank on the off pickerel line that made him howl. He had the line wound round his finger. Howsoever, he hooked him and yanked away, stood up and got the pickerel half in, when there came a haul on the line that sent him head over heels, and if it wasn't for the chair he'd a gone overboard sure. 'I've got a shark, Bill,' says he, a-gittin' his feet. 'It's a fresh water shark,' says I, and so it was—a muskalonge what almost raised the hair on my head. Fust he was out, now in; a-jerkin' the boat this way and that, now under, then a-streakin' it down stream, then up, a haulin' and tuggin', one minute two feet in the air, and then down deep, makin' that feller's arms go like wind-mills, and a-dancin, talking, and yellin', and so wound up in the line you'd a thought he was in a gill net. But Lord bless you! He wouldn't let me lend a hand, after wrastlin' for fifteen minutes more he led him along side, got the gaff into him, and hauled him aboard, and then the young feller jest set down and looked at him for about ten minutes without sayin' a word. It was a pictur'—there ain't no denyin' that; and then he says: 'Bill, I've allus laughed at this ere fresh water fishin', but that takes the cake. I wouldn't a lost that fish for $500.'

"Find the ten under the gill cover? I reckon I did, and he raised it ten. But what I was trying to get at," continued the speaker, "was that when we came to unhook him there was a reg'lar string. First there was the spoon, jest as in this case, a half-pound yaller perch that had grabbed it and been towed along without krowin' it; then a pickerel; he'd grabbed the perch, and as the young man was pullin' the pickerel in, the muscalonge had grabbed him—what ye might call a chain of events Three fish on the same hook; it beats the record, sure's you're born."

CHARACTER IN GAIT.

It is well to beware of the man who carries his left foot in towards his right in walking, giving the impression that his right foot turns out, and his left turns in. This man is a natural petty larcenist. He may, perhaps, have never stolen in his life, but that was because of fear, or lack of opportunity. But all the same he is liable at any time to sequester unconsidered trifles, for pure wantonness. He is of a kleptomaniac nature; but he is not nearly so dangerous as the man who deliberately lifts his leg up from the thigh, as though he was going up stairs. That man is a natural and educated villain. In England, where the treadmill is used in prisons, many convicts acquire that peculiar step; but it is the natural, careful, cat-like tread of the criminal.

The girl who walks with a flat foot planted squarely on the ground, as though she wanted it to grow there, may not be as attractive as the girl with the arched instep, but she is a good deal better natured. She is sure to be a good nurse, kind hearted, sympathetic, anxious to bear the burdens of others, while the girl with the arched foot is nearly sure to be selfish, and certain to be a coquette if she walks on her toes.

The man of short, nervous steps, is always a business man of energy; but if the stride is from the knee only, he is cold and selfish, caring for no one but himself. The man whose stride is long, and at the same time energetic, is generally bright, always erratic and ill-balanced, often conceited, always careless, fond of admiration, generally willing to sacrifice much for praise and eclat, and while often a good fellow, generally unreliable.

The diplomat and financier have a smooth, gliding walk, hard to describe, but easy to recognize. There is nothing sneaking about it, and he betokens careful deliberation, as though every step were duly considered before being made.

Great statesmen and great philantbropists, always have a loose, shambling gait, which comes from thinking about others more than about themselves. The strut of the vain man, the teetering trip of the "dude," the lounging gait of the unemployed club man, are all too familiar for description. To say that a person walks like a lady or like a gentleman, is high praise.

The gait can never be picked up in after life; it must be born in a man or woman, and cultivated in early youth. It is lost to a man when he falls into bad ways, for so surely as he loses his consciousness of rectitude, and pride of honor, so surely will he pick up the gait of the loafer. An honest man, gentle or simple, never walks like a thief, and a thief can never counterfeit the gait of an honest man; but in attempting to apply these rules to men, one knows it must be remembered that all thieves are not caught, and all suspected persons are not bad.—*California Alta.*

GIGANTIC MAGNETS.

It has long been a recognized fact that iron when subjected to repeated blows and shocks, obtains permanent magnetic qualities. Soft iron of a pure quality is affected very little in this way, but impure wrought and cut iron are capable of being permanently magnetized to a very appreciable extent. As early as the year 1600, Gilbert experimented in this direction by placing bars of iron in the magnetic meridian and striking them with a hammer. It would require very little imagination, therefore, to suppose that in a busy city, containing iron structures of all kinds, the latter should possess magnetic qualities, since they are constantly exposed to shocks and vibrations produced by traffic. Some one has been investigating the L roads in New York, the Brooklyn Bridge and other iron structures. Not only the nails, but the supporting iron colums, were found to be magnetic, as were also the columns supporting buildings, and the trusses connecting the posts. The Brooklyn Bridge is a huge magnet, cables and all. The cast-iron fronts are also magnetic, the north poles at the ground and the south poles at the top; and the lamp posts about town showed marked magnetic properties, as did also the hydrants. In buildings heated by steam, the radiators were all found to be magnetized, with north polarity at the bottom. The investigator thinks the existence of such large quantities of magnetized iron, in thickly inhabited sections, may affect the health of the people, but, if anything, the result would be beneficial. It may also have some influence over the weather, but this yet remains to be proved.

Wolves in France.—Wolves have long ceased to be a source of danger to English farmers, and Macaulay says the last one was slain in Scotland before the close of the reign of Charles II. But in France, according to the report of the French Ministry of Agriculture, over 1308 of these ferocious animals were destroyed last year, at a cost to the government of $20,750 in fees alone. The bounty offered a year and a half ago, has been the means of stimulating officials, as well as private individuals, to extirpate these pests. The price paid for every wolf which has attacked a human being, is forty dollars; and nine animals were brought in under this head. Thirty-two she-wolves, with young, were killed, the slayers receiving thirty dollars for each of them. The reward of twenty dollars for every other wolf killed, was the means of causing the destruction of 744 grown animals, while 493 cubs had to die that a reward of eight dollars apiece might be obtained. Most of the wolves killed were in the Northern and Eastern departments, bordering on Belgium and Germany.

HOME-MADE SWEETMEATS.

Preserved Grapes in Bunches.—Take out the stones from the bunches with a pin, breaking them as little as possible; boil some clarified sugar to nearly candying point; then put in sufficient grapes to cover the bottom of the preserving kettle, without laying them on each other, and boil for nearly five minutes, merely to extract all the juice; lay them in an earthen pan and pour the sirup over them; cover over with paper, and the next day boil the sirup, skimming it well for five minutes; put in the grapes, let them boil a minute or two; put them in pots, and pour the sirup over them, after which tie down.

Crab Apple Sweetmeats.—To one pound of fruit allow one pound of sugar, and one quart of hot water to seven pounds of fruit. Put the sugar and water in a kettle, and let the sugar dissolve. Wipe the f